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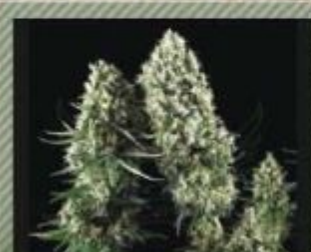
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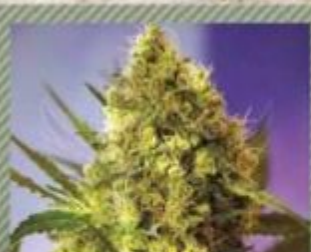
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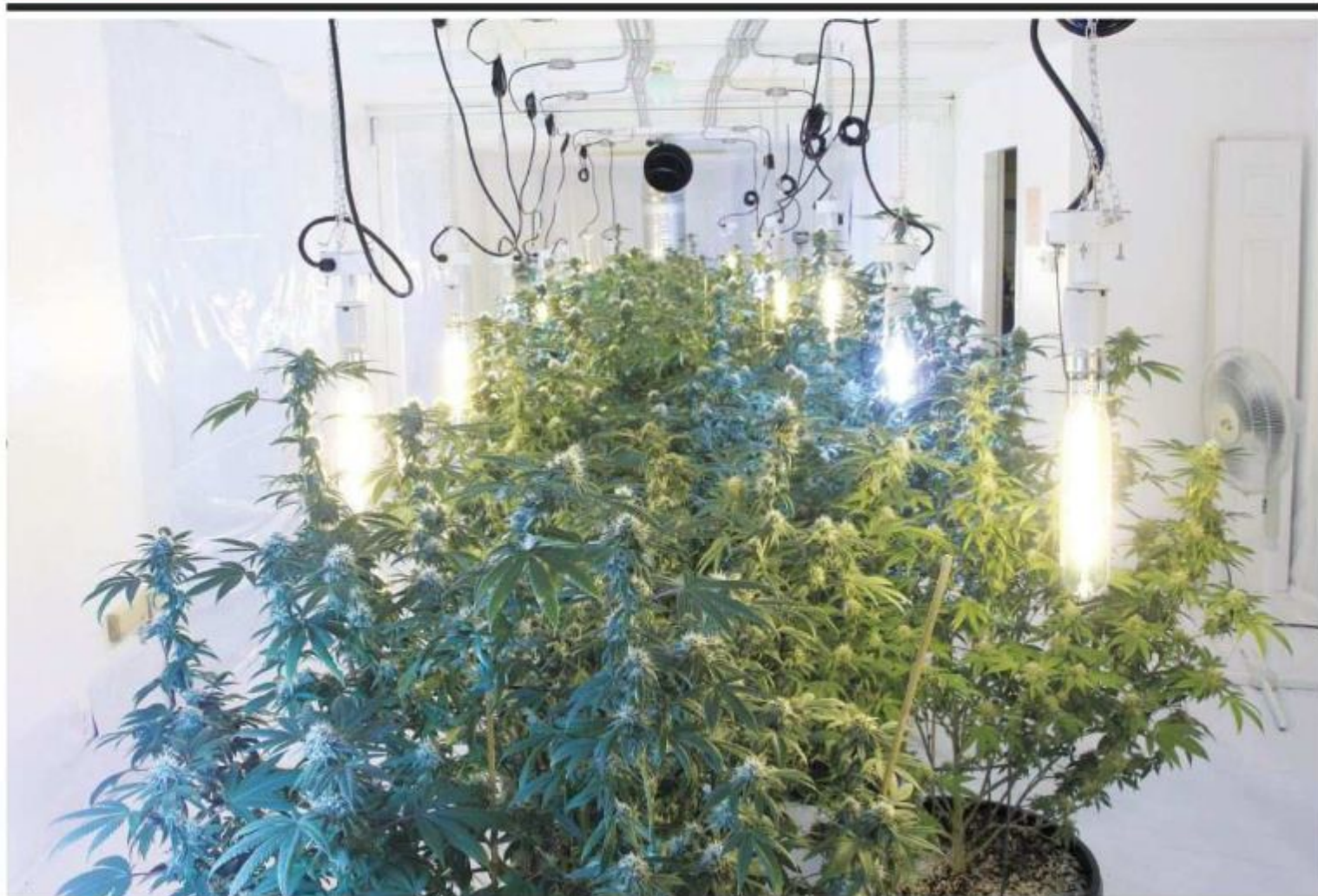


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“Usually, growers who haven’t fine-tuned their planting densities fall short in their efforts, not realizing enough potential budding sites in the plant canopy to give them good, high-quality yields.”

—Erik Biksa, ‘Growing on the Grid for Bigger Yields’, Page 74

47 Pot’s Greatest Hits

Welcome to the wide world of stoner stats! Since the breadth of our community is staggering, we decided the first issue of 2012 would be an ideal time to lay down our choices for the most notable achievements in the marijuana world: the best, the worst, the biggest, the weirdest, and anything else that struck our ganja-enhanced fancy.

56 Colorado Champions

Last April at the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup in Denver, a pair of dispensaries from the Rocky Mountain State took home the top three prizes for best pot. Here’s a look at how their gardens grow—as well as a cold, hard look at the state’s medical marijuana industry.

60 Czech Your Head

As the Dutch government threatens to regulate the country’s coffeeshops out of existence, people are debating what Europe’s next pot hotspot will be. HIGH TIMES says: Go east,

young man! To Eastern Europe, that is. With its lax marijuana laws, legal seeds and tolerant attitude, the Czech Republic is the new stoner sanctuary.

74 Growing on the Grid for Bigger Yields

Maximizing marijuana harvests requires a full understanding of plant density, growth patterns and the proper utilization of your grow space. Canadian cultivation correspondent Erik Biksa goes behind the scenes to reveal the secrets to amplifying your crop.

82 20 Coolest Grow Gadgets Under \$100

Grow equipment can be complicated and costly ... but it doesn’t have to be! These days, everyone from the first-time grower to the advanced grow geek can find a piece of gear so compelling that they blow a month’s rent just to have it in their garden. So we decided to seek out some hot deals and came up with this list of 20 extra-sweet garden gadgets that won’t leave a dent in your bank account.



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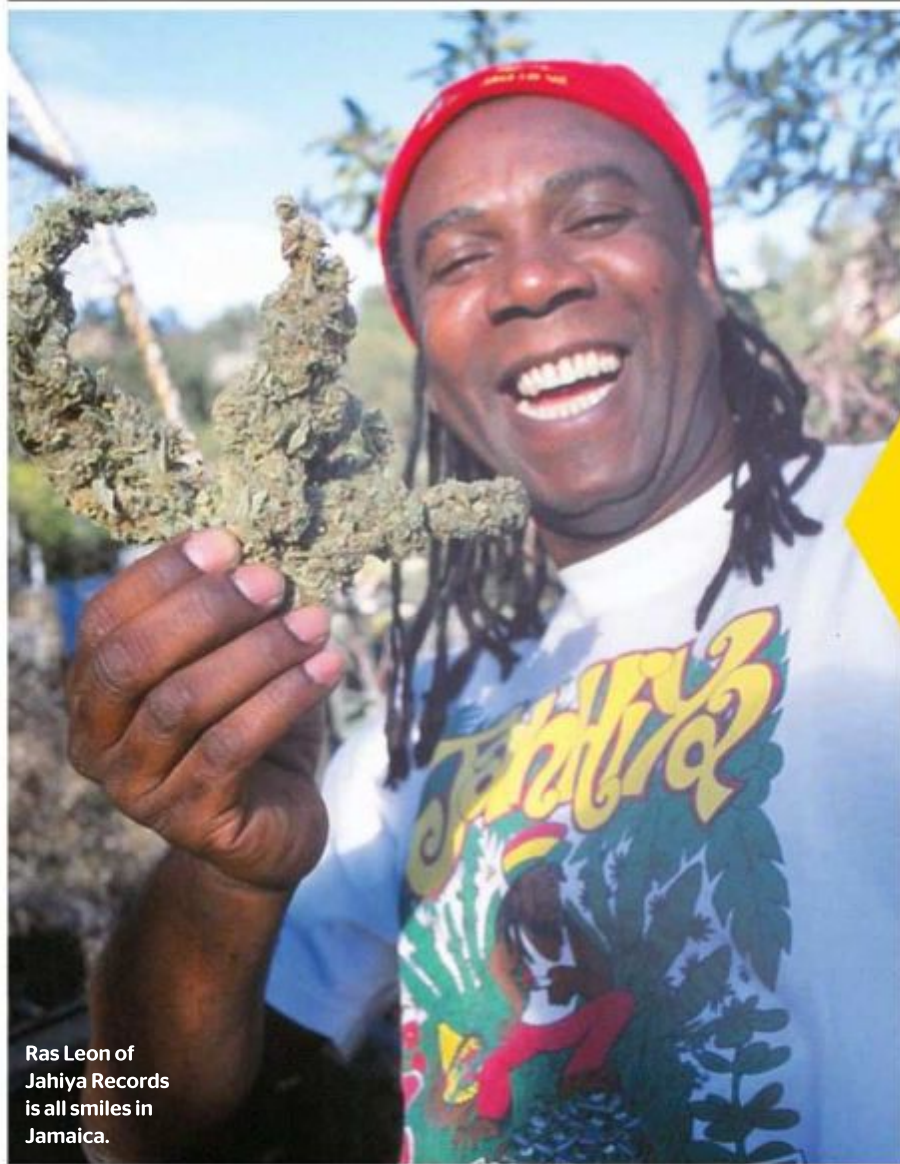
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HIGH TIMES DEPARTMENTS



Ras Leon of Jahiya Records is all smiles in Jamaica.

HIGHWITNESS NEWS

Entertainment (23) Harold & Kumar get stoned with Santa Claus; Montel Williams, medical marijuana and money scams; Ghana's leader gets rapped for ganja; Humboldt County's hip hop crew Potluck; LA beatboys Fool's Gold; Unsigned Band of the Month features Tatanka; DVD, music recommendations and more...

Medical (32) Forty years ago, Melanie Dreher, P.h.D, lived among the rural people of Jamaica and discovered that the use of cannabis in daily life was pervasive—and routine. **(34)** THC discovered to be harmless; Kevin McKernan identifies and maps the entire genome of the pot plant.

Politics (36) Australia looks to ring in the New Year by outlawing bongos; Mother of four receives 10 years for selling \$31 of pot; Dutch supermodel Lara Stone on getting high in Holland.

Food (38) The buzz to you each morning! Wake and bake, Dominican-style with a Caribbean breakfast of marijuana-infused mangu.

Internet (40) Potcast from Danny Danko; Sign up for the High Times newsletter; Check out classic issues of your favorite magazine; SSDP's Coolest cannabis college of the month; Miss High Times.

Markets (42) Trans High Market Quotations reports pot prices by the ounce, strain, and location.

- 10 Editor's Letter**
- 12 Letters**
- 16 Contact High**
- 114 Dispensary Directory**
- 116 Legal Directory**
- 132 The Pot 40**

99 Dear Danko
Marijuana growing questions answered by our senior cultivation editor.

108 Adventures in the Counterculture
Jonah Raskin's activist credentials date back to the Yippies.

110 Almost Infamous
Bobby Black's bachelor party roast was an herb-infused combo of hilarity and headbanging.

112 Normlizer
Drug testing students is an expensive waste and a violation of our children's rights.



120 Pix of the Crop
Reader-submitted photos of gardens, plants, growrooms and pot smoking still life scenes.

Senior editor Bobby Black turns the tables on his roasters.

CORRECTLY IDENTIFY THE MOST CHARACTERS ON THE COVER OF THE JANUARY 2012 ISSUE OF HIGH TIMES MAGAZINE AND WIN A FREE TRIP TO THE 2012 CANNABIS CUP IN AMSTERDAM!
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Entries for High Times' cover contest (the "Contest") may be a list of characters on the cover identified by the entrant on an 8 x 10-inch piece of paper. Valid entries must be postmarked and identify correctly the most characters on the cover of the January 2012 issue of High Times Magazine. Entries may be received for a period beginning November 1, 2011, and ending December 15, 2012, at 5 p.m. EST (the "Contest Period"). Valid entry to be made via email and U.S. mail only. Entrants must provide their name, address, city, state, ZIP code, email address, and telephone number to enter. One entry per person. To be eligible to win, entrants must mail a single entry on a 8 x 10-inch piece of paper with their identifications of characters from the front cover of the January 2012 edition of High Times Magazine. Mail all entries to: High Times Contest, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, New York 10016. Email entries to contest@hightimes.com. "High Times" is a registered trademark owned exclusively by the Trans-High Corporation (the "Sponsor"). Entry may be sent without purchase. Winner will be determined by the most correct number of character identifications from the cover of the January 2012 edition of High Times Magazine. In the event that more than one entrant is able to correctly identify the most characters, the winner will be that entrant who was chronologically the earliest to provide an entry with the most correct identifications. By entering this Contest, entrants give their express permission to be contacted by Sponsor by telephone, email and/or postal mail for Contest purposes only. Winning entrant further expressly permits the release of his or her name and/or photo to be used for publicity purposes by Sponsor.

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Contest will officially cease at December 15, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. where one (1) winning entrant will be selected who was the first in time to supply the most correct identifications of the illustrated characters depicted on the cover of the January 2012 cover of High Times Magazine. Odds of winning a prize depend on the number of entries received. The selected entrant will win: two VIP passes to the High Times Cannabis Cup in November 2012, accommodations for two (2) for three (3) nights at a location in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, to be solely determined by Trans-High Corporation; round-trip airfare for one from New York to Amsterdam, the Netherlands, plus round-trip ground transportation from the airport to the hotel in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Actual value of prize will vary depending on winner's city of departure and final flight itinerary. Certain restrictions and blackout dates may apply. Winning entrant (the "Winner") is responsible for his or her own local transportation to and from the airport in his or her departure city to New York, New York, in addition to

transportation to John F. Kennedy International Airport or surrounding area airports from which the flight to Amsterdam commences. Prize will be redeemable in cash for 1/5,000th of the retail value of the prize.

Trans-High Corporation, its employees, agents, successors, and assignees of the Sponsor, its advertising agencies and participating companies involved in the Contest, and employees of and family members of each of the foregoing, shall be ineligible to participate in the Contest.

ANY PRIZE IS AWARDED "AS IS" AND WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED.

The Winner will be notified by telephone within seven (7) days after the date on which such Winner is selected by Sponsor. The Winner must respond within ten (10) business days of notification or risk forfeiture of the prize at the Sponsor's discretion. The Sponsor is not liable for any notification delay. The Sponsor will have sole discretion to rule on all aspects of the Contest. The decisions of the Sponsor shall be final and irrevocable. The Sponsor reserves the right at any time to make any necessary or appropriate changes to the Contest or its rules as necessary and proper. The Sponsor reserves the right to cancel or modify the Contest or its prizes, in whole or in part, in the event of technical or other difficulties or for any other reason at any time that the Sponsor, in its sole discretion, deems fit.

The Contest is subject to this Agreement and entrants expressly agree to be bound by all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. By participating in this Contest, you acknowledge that you have read this Agreement and agree to abide by its terms and by the decisions of the Sponsor, which are final and binding on all matters pertaining to the Contest. All U.S. federal, state, and local tax laws and regulations apply. This drawing is void where prohibited or restricted by law. The Winner will be responsible for all applicable taxes and declarations to taxing authorities. The Sponsor reserves the right to change these Official Rules at any time and for any reason whatsoever without further notice.

Entrant expressly releases SPONSOR, ITS SUBSIDIARIES BOTH DIRECT OR INDIRECT, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, CONTRACTORS, OR ANY OF ITS AGENTS OR AFFILIATES OR ASSIGNS ("RELEASEES"), from any responsibility to entrant OR ENTRANTS BY ENTERING HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS RELEASEES FROM AND AGAINST ANY CLAIMS, COSTS, LIABILITY OR DAMAGES WHATSOEVER DUE TO ANY INJURIES, DAMAGES, LOSSES TO ANY PERSON (INCLUDING DEATH) OR PROPERTY OF ANY KIND RESULTING IN WHOLE OR IN PART, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE CONTEST BY SUBMITTING AN ENTRY COUPON, WINNING ANY PRIZE, ACCEPTANCE, POSSESSION, MISUSE OR USE OF ANY PRIZE, OR PARTICIPATION IN ANY SWEEPSTAKES-RELATED ACTIVITY OR ANY DAMAGES WHATSOEVER OTHERWISE ARISING OUT OF THIS CONTEST.

Request for Official Rules and winner's name: To request a copy of the Official Rules or selected Winner's name, send such request along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to High Times Contest, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, New York 10016.

By entering this Contest, the entrant agrees that any and all claims against Sponsor, its affiliates, employees, officers, directors, judges and agents arising out of this drawing shall be settled by final and binding arbitration before the American Arbitration Association pursuant to the United States Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. §1-16, or before the American Arbitration Association under its International Arbitration Rules if the claim arises from conduct outside of the United States. Any such claim must be filed in New York, New York, with the American Arbitration Association by December 23, 2011, or no claim or action may be sustained against Trans-High Corporation, its affiliates, employees, officers, directors, judges and agents arising out of this Contest.

By entering this Contest, each entrant agrees to be bound by each and every term of these Official Rules.



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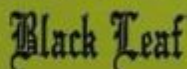
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Win a Trip to the Cannabis Cup!

WHAT IF YOU could gather together great stoners from across the ages for the greatest pot party ever? That's what we've tried to do this month. There are 92 cannabis stars cavorting on our cover in some form. Not everyone depicted on it is a hero, but everyone shares a close link to the pot community.

Can you name 'em all? The person who comes closest to correctly identifying all of our cover stars will win a trip to the 2012 Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam!

The prize includes airfare for you, a double room, plus a pair of judges' passes for you and a friend! The contest rules are listed on p.8; the deadline for entries is December 15, and the winner will be announced online. Submit your answers to contest@hightimes.com or mail to High Times Contest, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th Floor, New York, New York 10016. Who knows? You just might win a trip to the last Cannabis Cup in the history of our planet.

Oh, haven't you heard? According to the Mayan calendar, 2012 will be

the last year that HIGH TIMES is published. That's because December 21, 2012 is supposed to be the last shopping day before Christmas—ever.

Depending on whom you read, the ancient Mayans believed that the Great Cycle of their Long Count calendar would come to an end on that date, which has led some to predict cataclysmic events. Other interpreters of the calendar, however, believe that the date will actually usher in an age of miraculous transformation, wherein humankind will achieve the zenith of its spiritual evolution.

With that in mind, we've spruced up our magazine a bit just in time for this pivotal year. You'll find the same great coverage of the world of marijuana, as well as the same luscious pot photos that have become our signature. We just wanted to make sure—that no matter what's coming our way in 2012—we look our very best.

Dan Skye

EXECUTIVE EDITOR



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Grow Vids

Hey, HT! I run a grow shop and have a customer who was wondering if HIGH TIMES could create a spot on its website or on YouTube where growers in the community could upload videos? The page could include daily pictures and videos for the underground community to enjoy. I'd enjoy seeing every aspect of growing—from temps to watering, nutes, light intensity and the equipment used—as well as the chance to check daily for new ideas. You could even take questions and have the answers posted. —*MB*

If you have a good video or photos to share, you can post the links on 420.com. The HIGH TIMES staff checks the site daily; in fact, we get many of our best leads from the website.

Poster Plea

I started reading HT a month or two ago, and I love the mag! My only problem is that it's stapled, not bound, and every time I take the centerfold out, the other pages wanna come out, too. It's a bit annoying, since I'd like to keep the info in the mag around for as long as possible. Any suggestions? —*420bongrips*

When it comes to removing the centerfold, patience is required—and a surgeon's dexterity. The best way to do it is to open the staples first, lift the centerfold out and then press the staples back down. Another good way is to buy two copiers!

Come to the Cannabis Cup

I enjoyed the article "Got Cup?" (Oct. '11 HT) previewing the 2011 Cannabis Cup—so much so, in fact, that my hubby and I are thinking of becoming judges. However, though you mentioned that strain entries would be available for purchase at participating coffeeshops, you didn't give a ballpark figure as to how much purchasing power is needed to ensure a wide variety of samples. So ... how much? Thanks! —*Peggy Lou*

Coffeeshops charge from 10 to 15 euros per gram, so that works out (using the exchange rate on the day this answer is being written) to about \$14 to \$21 per gram. As many as 30 shops enter the Cup, so do the math using a currency calculator. Also, keep in mind that some shops offer discounts to Cup judges, while others offer free samples. If you're able to try all of them, we salute you!

Higher Calling

I don't know if HIGH TIMES knows about this guy yet, so I thought I'd drop you a line. His name is Rev. Brandon Eardman, and his congregation calls him "Rev. Reefer." He's the founder of Oklahoma



“The majority of the gaming community hates us because we have fun playing and smoking, whereas they’re just interested in winning. (Sounds like real life.)”

Marijuana Ministries, the first and only marijuana-based ministry in the state. I've been to one of his services, and it was packed. He has a really big following, and it's cool that he's doing this in one of the harshest marijuana-law states in the country. —*Denise*

Down-Under Dank

I've been reading HIGH TIMES for some years and have a nice collection, but I wanted to know when you're going to do a big grow article on Australia? I've traveled to Vancouver, Amsterdam and Spain, but I have to say that Australia's the place with the best, most potent herb. So pack your bags and come on over—and try somewhere different than Junkyville Nimbin, where all they have is shitty bush-bud crap. Come to Melbourne, where the best growers live. We have a small grow crew here called GFA Genetics, and we also make the best bubble. So try some Aussie-grown! We don't grow for profit; we grow to alleviate the pain. Peace out! —*Ravin Lunatic*

Ganja Gamers

I'm a 24-year-old marijuana advocate from Austin, TX, studying graphic design. By night, I'm also the clan leader

of the largest organized group of marijuana gamers. My clan is Budsmokers Only, with the tag “weed” on the hit online game Heroes of Newerth by S2 gaming. I'm submitting this letter because it's time for marijuana gamers to hit the mainstream. We're a different breed of stoners, who enjoy sitting in front of a monitor with our favorite bong to carry us through the night. We are the second-largest clan in the entire game and the largest weed gaming community on the Internet—463 members strong. We advocate peace, love and marijuana in a very controversial, hate-and-racism-infested video game.

The majority of the gaming community hates us because we have fun playing and smoking, whereas they're just interested in winning. (Sounds like real life.) But people need to chill. We have impacted the game to

the point that the editors have included bongs, pot leaves, magic mushrooms and tons of other countercultural icons, which are all purchasable in the game. We're a very marketable demographic, and we need to be brought to light. —*AJ*

Future Miss High Times

I've been enjoying your magazine and marijuana equally for a while now, and there's nothing I would enjoy more than being a model for your magazine. If you could let me know where and how to submit my photos, I'd highly (tee-hee) appreciate it! —*Christina*

You can sign up at misshightimes.com. Post your photos and let the stoner public decide.

Vintage High Times

I came across an issue of HIGH TIMES that was stored in my father's garage for years and was wondering if there were collectors out there looking for these older issues? I have a mint-condition volume VI (which I'm guessing is volume six). If you can give me any information about it, it would be greatly appreciated. —*Robert A.*

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Contact High

MICHIGAN MUSCLE On September 7th, nearly 2,000 Michigan activists rallied on the lawn of the state capitol in Lansing, demanding that politicians respect the state's medical marijuana law. It was the biggest rally for legal cannabis in state history. In 2008, 63 percent of state voters endorsed legal medical marijuana. However, a recent Appeals Court ruling has put dispensary operators in legal jeopardy. It may take a State Supreme Court decision to undo the damage.



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MY VOTE
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GO CHASE
THE RE
MINI

63%

FIGHT
CRIM
N
SI



**Contact
High**

MAGICAL MENDO More pot comes out of the Emerald Triangle, consisting of Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino Counties in California, than any other region in the nation. In Mendo, where this emerald garden grows, marijuana drives approximately two-thirds of the county's economy. Sounds like heavy industry at work. Thankfully, this one is truly green.





DRUG RUNNERS Graphic artist Ernie Cefalu designed the legendary packaging for Cheech and Chong's Big Bambu album. For the comedy duo's next release, he devised an elaborate drug trafficking theme. Differences in direction and content prevented the album's release. Ernie shared this previously unpublished 1972 photo, which would have been the album's back cover. Cheech and Chong make their escape just ahead of the cops, with drugs and money in hand. See more of Ernie Cefalu at originalalbumcoverart.com.

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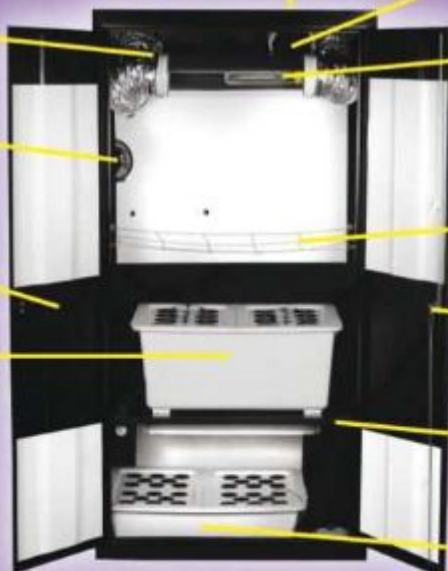
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Highwits News

In the Harold & Kumar universe, even Santa is a stoner...



Entertainment

DVD: Electric Daisy Carnival

DJs, art installations and the dancer utopia p.26



Medicine

Community of Cannabis

A doctor's study of the plant & people at play p.32



Harold, Kumar, and their old pal NPH get all dolled up for Christmas.

A VERY HAROLD & KUMAR CHRISTMAS

In the third installment of their stoner saga, an estranged Harold and Kumar rekindle their friendship with the help of Santa Claus, Neil Patrick Harris and, of course, plenty of weed. *By Bobby Black*

When we last left our pothead protagonists Harold and Kumar, they were getting their smoke on with their girlfriends in Amsterdam, so you might expect that this next film would begin with them high and happy. But as I learned from H&K creators Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg, that's very far from the case.

"The new film picks up seven years later in the present day, and we find out that Harold and Kumar are no longer close ... they've grown apart, and we don't know exactly why," explains Hurwitz. "Harold is very successful—he and Maria are married and living in the suburbs, and he's stopped smoking weed. Kumar, on the other hand, is still Kumar—he and Vanessa have broken up, so he's living alone in the same apartment he used to share with Harold. He's graduated med school but hasn't become a doctor because he failed a drug test."

Instead of hanging out together, the guys each have new best friends now: Harold's new pal Todd is a boring, neutered kind of guy (played by *Reno*

911's Tom Lennon), while Kumar's new buddy is an annoying dude from down the hall named Adrian (played by College Humor's Amir Blumenfeld). There's a load of other guest stars, including the Wu-Tang Clan's RZA, comedian Patton Oswalt and B-movie bad boy Danny Trejo, who plays Harold's father-in-law.

"He's like the De Niro *Meet the Parents* character, but more intense and a bit racist," says Schlossberg.

Having grown so far apart, what will it take for these two to reignite the flame of their friendship?

"It's the magic of Christmas," Schlossberg says. "That's what brings them together: holiday spirit, as symbolized by a giant joint that Santa gives them." That's right, folks—in the H&K universe, even Santa is a stoner.

"This is the first stoner Christmas movie," Schlossberg explains. "It's a melding of both worlds."

"We're big fans of Christmas movies," adds Hurwitz, "and we thought that the contrast of the H&K brand of humor mixed in with a genuine warm-and-fuzzy Christmas movie would be really fun and fulfilling for the fans."

"In the history of movies, you've never seen anyone smoke weed in 3-D before."

Embracing the fans' perspective was something the writers had in mind when they recruited the film's director, Todd Strauss-Schulson.

"I love the H&K movies. I saw the first one with my friends in college, baked out of my mind," says Strauss-Schulson, a stoner himself. "I genuinely wanted to make this movie, because I'm that guy who's going to get stoned on a Friday night and go see it, and I don't want to see a shitty movie."

He even confesses to getting high while working on the film. "I wouldn't be high during the day, but editing high is the best. I'd take cuts home, watch them stoned and write down ideas."

« Having never tackled a full-length film before, the budding director was elated at the chance to apply his personal talents and influences to the beloved franchise.

“It was super exciting for me. I loved the idea that every vignette H&K walked into would look and feel like that genre. They meet a mobster, and that’s when I get to be Scorsese. There’s a Claymation sequence, and I get to be Tim Burton. There’s a big musical number with Neil Patrick Harris, and I get to be Busby Berkeley.”

“When we’re writing it, we think, ‘What’s the craziest thing we can have Neil do?’” Schlossberg says. “I think he enjoys the edginess, freedom and weirdness of getting to do outrageous things that he can’t do on network TV or in *The Smurfs*.”

Not only is *H&K3* the first stoner Christmas movie—it’s also the first stoner movie ever shot in 3-D. “You’ve never seen anyone smoke weed in 3-D before,” gushes Strauss-Schulson. “Imagine if you could’ve seen Chong giving you a shotty in 3-D! Well, that’s what we do—in the



H&K3 director Todd Strauss-Schulson, with stars John Cho and Kal Penn.

Ah, Neil Patrick Harris ... in the past two films, NPH has stolen a car, snorted cocaine from a stripper’s ass, branded a prostitute, ridden a unicorn while tripping on mushrooms, been blasted in the back with a shotgun and risen from the dead. How much more over-the-top could his character possibly get?

“This time he goes to Heaven, meets Jesus Christ and steals his topless girlfriends,” reveals Strauss-Schulson. “He’s telekinetic, tries to rape someone, abuses a robot ... there was nothing we could ask him to do that he wasn’t down for.”

first 30 seconds of the movie, Kumar and Patton Oswalt are smoking together and blowing smoking rings out into the audience.”

“This is a very different type of 3-D experience,” Hurwitz affirms. “This isn’t *Avatar*.”

With a full trilogy now under their belts, will this be the last we see of the danktastic duo? Not according to Hurwitz.

“Harold & Kumar is something very special to all of us,” he says. “As long as there are stories to tell and fun to be had, we’re all in.”

A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas is in theaters now.

Scan here to watch the trailer for *A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas*.



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Did The Karate Kid just steal my fucking car?

Co-writer Jon Hurwitz told *The New York Times* that if Neil Patrick Harris had turned down his role in *Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle*, their second choice was Ralph Macchio, who, like Harris, was best known for a wholesome role.

SHOWBUZZ

Montel’s New Biz

➤ **Montel Williams**, one of America’s most prominent medical marijuana patients, has become the public face of the Abatin Wellness Center, a discreet and upscale dispensary in Sacramento, CA. Williams, who’s battled multiple sclerosis for years, also recently announced his involvement with a group seeking licenses to open another dispensary in Washington, DC, of the same name.

Montel has been praised in many quarters for his outspoken support of medical marijuana. Not quite so praiseworthy, however, is his gig as a pitchman for Money Mutual, which preys upon those in financial straits by promising quick and easy loans. The company’s service record is littered with complaints and reports of rip-offs, though Money Mutual’s website touts its connection to Williams and states that he “associates himself only with products that help people live better physically, spiritually, financially and emotionally.”



Montel promotes med-pot and shady scams.

Then stick to medical marijuana, Montel.

Tattletale Ambassador

➤ **Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo** is the standard-bearer for the New Patriotic Party in Ghana, a country considered one of the most stable democracies in Africa. The handpicked successor of Ghana’s former president, Akufo-Addo was defeated in the 2008 presidential race, though he plans to run again in 2012. But his baggage is growing heavier: Political opponents charge that his party accepted campaign money from the country’s cocaine barons (Ghana is a major transshipment point for coke headed to Europe), and in a report on the 2008 elections recently released by Wikileaks, the former US ambassador to Ghana, Pamela Bridgewater, presciently wrote: “Akufo-Addo is respected for his intelligence, political family background, and broad government experience On the other hand, he has poor organizational skills and often comes across as arrogant and formal, which may not play well with many party activists and Ghanaian voters. His reputation as a womanizer and occasional marijuana smoker may also damage him politically.”

Which means he’s not so different from many US politicians.



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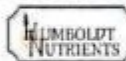


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RHYMES & RESIN

Humboldt County's Potluck aim for the stoner soul.



Look closely at any crowd of Potluck fans and you'll see him, as clear as the tattoo on I-Ton's right forearm: The Universal Soldier. He's the slump-shouldered, bare-chested homie in the bucket hat leaning with the angular momentum clutching a mic as if his life depended on it. He could be any color, any religion, any body. But he's the man behind everything the Humboldt County-based hip hop crew has said and done ever since his appearance on the cover of their 2001 debut LP, *Humboldt County High*, and he'll be a silent partner in all their successes and failures until the day I-Ton and his

“We announce after every show: We don't come here to perform for you; we come here to party with you.”

partner/producer Underrated ash their last away.

“The Universal Soldier is fighting for the voice of the independent, the voice of the underdog, the under-ground guy who never gets an opportunity to get out there,” indicates I-Ton as he submits his ink for inspection. “That's what we always represent.”

The road, of course, is an endless one. They've been on this particular one for two months now as part of a joint tour between Tech N9ne's

Strange Music and Suburban Noize, which released Potluck's latest offering *Rhymes & Resin* this past July. Everyone on the tour calls this bus home for now, and I-Ton and Underrated have to close the doors and turn on the fan so the rest of the crew doesn't catch the vapors. It's a far cry from the rolling redwoods and harvest aromas of their own home, but for now, it'll do.

“Humboldt is the Mecca of marijuana. It's the capital of chronic. That's a given,” I-Ton acknowledges. “But all the great things that you'd hope to see in a community based around marijuana are there. In Arcata, where Humboldt State University is, no corporations are allowed within city limits, so it's all mom-and-pop businesses. It's beyond marijuana. That's why I personally love Humboldt so much.”

Before I-Ton and Underrated started Potluck, they worked within the county's local weed trade as growers and traffickers, and songs like “Shut The Fuck Up” from

culture in stops around the country far more casually than their fans do. I-Ton observes, “When we leave outside of Humboldt, growing weed and smoking the most amount of weed, all these things are really glamorized. But when you're from Humboldt, those are accepted, normal, everyday things.”

Their experience also helps them see through the myths other stoners uncritically accept. The verses in *Rhymes & Resin's* “Strains” playfully references several famous names (“215, not breaking the law/Coughing up phlegm again when I'm puffin' Chem dog/Trying all the flavors like trial and error/*Indica* and *sativa*/RIP Jack Herer.”) over a backing track composed of coughs, lighter clicks and bong bubbles. But I-Ton insists, “Because of medical marijuana, strains have gotten more recognition than they really, I think, deserve. And a lot of times, the grower matters way more than the strain...if you get a hundred different growers to grow OG Kush, it's gonna come out one hundred different ways. So if you give me a choice of picking a grower or picking a strain, I'm going to pick the grower.”

At every show, I-Ton makes a point to drink at the bar and chill. That's where the soldiers are stationed, and it's ultimately where Potluck gets its marching orders. “We announce after every show: We don't come here to perform for you; we come here to party with you. That's what we do all across the nation—kick it with fans who smoke, try growers' different strains, drink beer with them and have fun. And that's what we're about.” *Justin Hampton*



What's in a name?

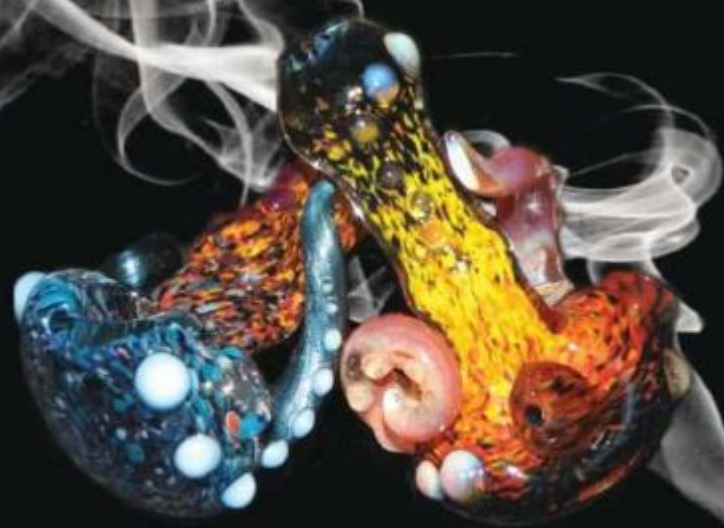
“The name ‘Potluck’ doesn't mean ‘a gathering with food,’ it refers to the multiple ethnic groups that joined together to make their albums, almost like a potluck of ideas instead of food from a collection of cultures.”
—Underrated



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Tatanka

Tatanka specializes in dub, progressive reggae and electro soundscapes. Heavy Caribbean drum-and-bass grooves provide the pulse for the party as the music invites you to get down and dirty.

These Denver dub warriors released their first studio EP, *Sounds in Technicolor*, last year. The release has been dubbed “drum-and-bass music for a new generation” and offers a twist on new and old reggae riddims. Tatanka followed that up with a new full-length album entitled *John Dunbar* last fall.

The group has built a rapidly growing fan base in their hometown of Denver. This can be attributed to the diverse and unique sound that the band has developed over their years of playing together. Tatanka



draws its audience from both the reggae and electronica crowds and, thanks to extensive touring, is winning over new fans across the country. The band's members—the Mexico, Malonestar, CHAMPian and Byrd—will continue bringing the Tatanka madness, coming soon to a city near you.

For more on Tatanka, including audio samples and tour dates, check out hightimes.com/tatanka.



OPEN BORDERS

Fool's Gold mix Latin and African influences—not to mention some herbal spice—to create a new American pop sound. By John Payne

On their eponymous debut album in 2009, LA beatboys Fool's Gold surprised the indie-rock crowd with a bracing batch of jammy rock/pop tunes liberally laced with African, Latin and other worldly sounds. They've recently released their follow-up, *Leave No Trace*, a record far more focused on brief songs, tighter structures and a somewhat pared-down sound (the band was trimmed to five members from a one-time high of 15 players). *Leave No Trace* is spaced-out but has hooks by the dozen, wicked strutting grooves, intensely atmospheric surfy streams, and evocative Krautrockian synth swathes. As a multiculturalist would say, it's a melting pot of music.

“The first album was really loose,” says guitarist Lewis Pesacov. “It was like, we know so many people in bands playing three-minute songs with lots of formulas, and we weren't interested in anything like that. We were interested in jamming—just playing 14 minutes, 20 minutes, on just

one note. The first album was a compilation of those jams.”

When Fool's Gold came back from tour in December of last year, their label wanted them to make a record immediately, so band founders Pesacov and bassist Luke Top got on it right away. They headed out to the Mojave Desert, where they

“(Marijuana) was a way of allowing ourselves to try things that maybe we wouldn't try.”

rented a house and spent from Christmas Day to New Year's Eve doing nothing but conceptualizing new songs ... and smoking a little cannabis.

“The house was in the middle of nowhere, 30 minutes to a grocery store. We came up with demos while we were out there, then brought them to the band and rehearsed them, then into the studio to record. The major difference is, it's mostly sung in English rather than Hebrew.”

“There are similarities and connections between many musics if you dig long and hard enough,” Top points out. “I see

all music as a massive spectrum that mixes folk traditions and Western pop and rock. We're involved in a ping-pong dialogue with that world.”

Even so, he adds, “you can't escape who you are. We're kids from LA; we like pop music, and we'd be lying if we didn't submit to all of our influences.”

“We were really stoned most of the time we were writing the new album,” Pesacov says with a laugh. “It was a way of allowing ourselves to try things that maybe we wouldn't try. And to laugh at things that were musically funny. Or it can be serious—like on the song ‘Mammal,’ we had a drum

beat and a riff, and we looped it, and Luke just sang in this altered state where he was really able to focus. Afterward, he said he felt like he was swimming through the song, discovering things as he swam through it. And that's how he wrote the vocal melody. Smoking weed helps open up the palette to other colors.”

“It enhances things,” Top puts in. “The first time I heard our album after making it, I smoked a bunch of weed, and I felt like I got to really hear the album for the first time. And it sounded incredible. I could hear it coagulate!” 🌿

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DREAMING OF ELECTRIC SHEEP

New movie shows life behind the velvet rope.

Take one fairly focused look at the world and you might think the party's over. But you'd be wrong—it's never been bigger. For a generation after the rave format emigrated to the States, the numbers for electronic dance music (EDM) "massives" swelled to populations the size of small cities.

The Electric Daisy Carnival Experience

Directed by Kevin Kerslake
(Insomniac)

No individual promotion company represents all of the volatile forces encapsulated in modern EDM more fully than Insomniac Productions in Los Angeles, whose flagship event, the Electric Daisy Carnival, boasts satellite parties throughout the country. And now Insomniac has released a new film by director Kevin Kerslake that captures the frenzy (an ill-advised decision made by prog-house producer Kaskadee to bring a sound system to the documentary's Hollywood premiere was enough to cause a mini-riot, clips of which are included in the DVD). But while there's more than enough material for an important, even profound look at dance-music culture vis-a-vis this festival, this documentary isn't it.

The Electric Daisy Carnival planted a gargantuan, rainbow-hued amusement-park-cum-dancer-utopia in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum for 15 years, with rides, acrobatics, art installations hot off the playa, and world-class DJs—until the death of 15-year-old Sasha Rodriguez (from an overdose of Ecstasy) and a nasty stampede at the carnival last year forced a move to Las Vegas. Yet, none of this is addressed in the film. Instead, we get an endless visual succession of DJ performances by Moby, deadmau5 and Swedish House Mafia, made complete by scantily clad, clown-faced go-go dancers—and an indulgent tribute to the late DJ AM. Missed opportunities abound here, but you do get will.i.am's most inane interview ever, so there is that.

Ultimately, festivals like EDC destroy the world and enrich it in equal measure. That's what makes them so simultaneously vital—but a glorified infomercial like this will never confront that basic fact. *Justin Hampton*

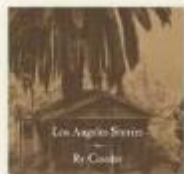
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Jackpot:
High Times, High Seas and the Sting that Launched the War on Drugs
By Jason Ryan
(Lyons Press)

➤ Author Jason Ryan provides a well-researched account of Operation Jackpot, the Fort Sumter of the War on Drugs. The story begins on Florida's southern tip—from there, a few good ol' boys sail a boat to Jamaica, load it with bales of marijuana, and return home to instant wealth and

a new lifestyle. The party then moves north to the marshy coastlands of South Carolina, where secret inlets (once used by blockade runners in the Civil War) provide clandestine points for unloading marijuana. The boats get bigger, the men get richer, and the Feds come knocking. *Rollergirl*



Los Angeles Stories
Ry Cooder
(City Lights Books)

➤ After 15 or so albums, Ry Cooder is as legendary as the outlaws he sings about. He's no longer the hot young guitarist who riffed with Mick Jagger, and he probably shouldn't be starting a new career, but that's exactly what he's done here. *Los Angeles Stories* is a nifty collection of his finely tuned

fiction, in which he pays homage to the city he loves and hates in nearly equal measure. Cooder's memories spring from the pages of Los Angeles Stories like the plaintive notes of a bluesy slide guitar. Word for word, his funky noir city seems more real than the LA of 2012. *Jonah Raskin*

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



War to Head
Ape Machine
(Ape Machine Music)

➤ Amidst all the hipster indie tameness of the Portland, OR, music scene, Ape Machine prove there's still some stoner salvation to be found. Mars Volta keyboardist Isaiah "Ikey" Owens, who also plays organ on four songs, produced *War to Head*, and it's a more focused, less experimental

release than Ape Machine's last LP. "Hold Your Tongue" echoes early King Crimson and establishes vocalist Caleb Heinze as a postmodern Ozzy. The band continue to wear their Me Decade influences proudly on their bongwater-soaked sleeves with a cover of Deep Purple's "Black Night." *Mark Miller*



Death's Procession
Saviours
(Kemado)

➤ Over the last seven years, Saviours' alloy of mid-'80s thrash, classic '70s rock and sludgy Black Sabbath throb has evolved to favor the latter two. *Death's Procession*, their fourth album, is definitely more weed than speed—good news for stoners! Still, fat, thrashy, chugging riffs drive rippers like

"Crete'n" and "Gods End," and the stellar Thin Lizzy-style twin guitar solos for which this band is known are, thankfully, everywhere. Other notable tracks include "Fire of Old," with its spare lead, and the wrenching instrumental "Earth's Procession & Death's Progression." *Polly Watson*



Honkey Kong
Boots Electric
(Dangerbird)

➤ Hollywood homeboy Jesse Hughes fronts garage champs the Eagles of Death Metal, who abound in ludicrous references to all things dumb rock'n'roll. A primo hook man and pop-detritus dumpster diver, Hughes now makes his glammy dance-rock solo debut as Boots Electric

with this hectic stomp of an album, wherein ELO and T. Rex hump Funkadelic, Ultravox and the Big Bopper. "Boots Electric Theme" and "I Love You All the Thyme" include synth squinks, buzz guitars and big, fat beats alongside bells, steam organs, violin solos and warped special FX. *John Payne*

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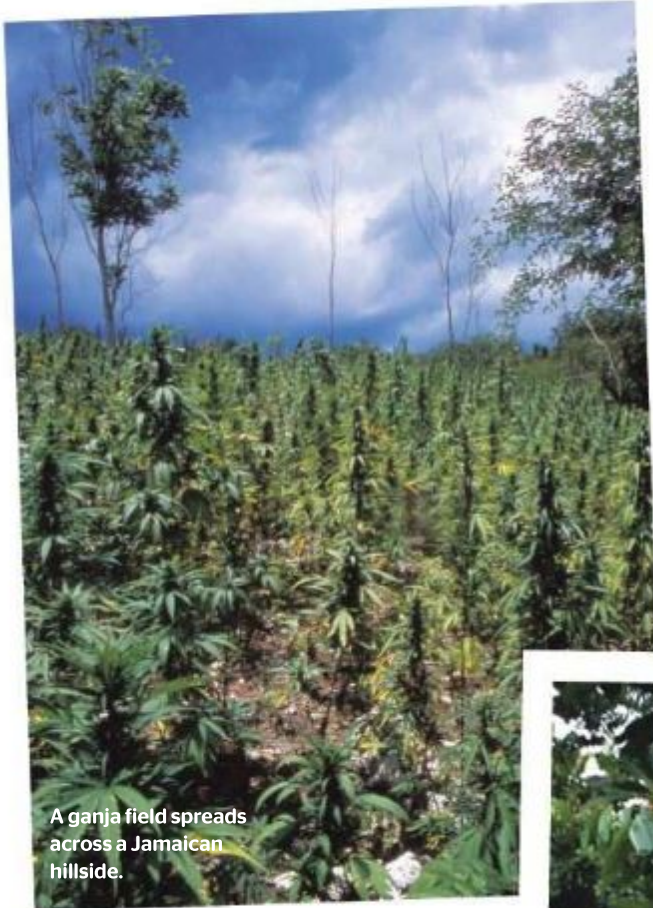
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A ganja field spreads across a Jamaican hillside.

JAMAICA'S CULTURE OF MEDICINE

Forty years ago, researcher Melanie Dreher traveled to Jamaica to focus on the culture of ganja. What she witnessed radically changed her perspective. Moreover, her insights—revealed in a series of letters to a colleague—are amazingly prescient as our community seeks substantiation of the benefits of cannabis.

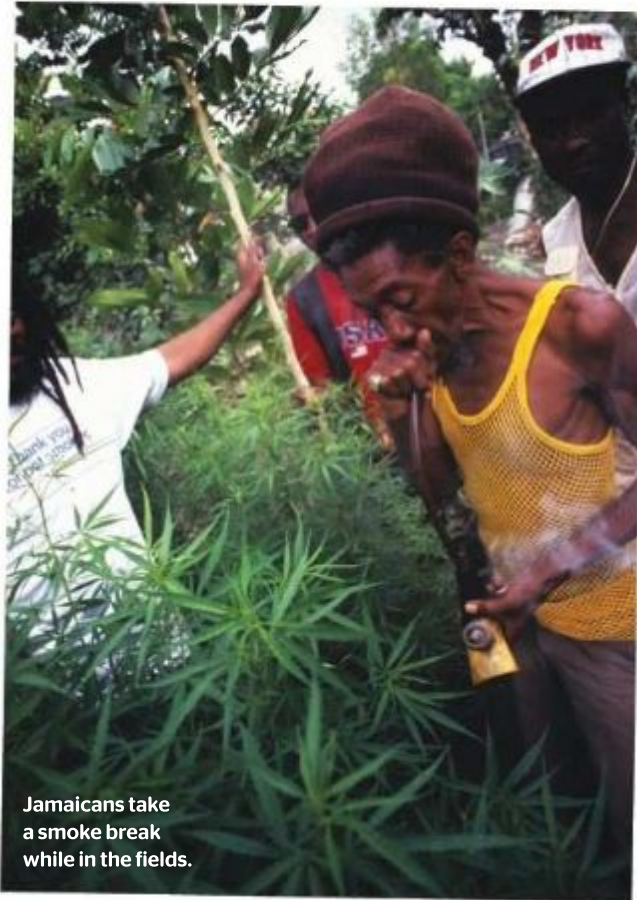
JULY 30, 1970

Dear L—

I'm beginning to think I am not your best choice for this project. I've never smoked anything in my life, and I'm coughing through every interview [smile]. The men in the village are very patient, though, and willing to answer all my questions. Even the Rastafarians don't seem to mind that I don't smoke, but they're eager to let me know that "woman nah ha' de brain fe smoke herb."

Of course, smoking it is the sacrament for Rastas, but even the non-Rastas have a very high regard for the substance and are often critical of the recreational use in the US—"a serious plant, dis"—and often are critical of the Americans who come to Jamaica to use it to laugh and act "stupid." All of the men reported using it to "reason" with other men, and several said that they would not smoke with those who could not "control demselves." I'm more convinced every day these men have a story to tell about marijuana that needs to be heard in the US. I hope I can do that for them.

However, the real surprise for me is the extensive household medicinal use. I spent most of last week, on the advice of the men,



Jamaicans take a smoke break while in the fields.

meeting with women who don't smoke it (unless they smoke with their husbands or boyfriends in a pre-sexual context), but use ganja routinely in the form of teas and tonics. They make ganja tea for just about every health problem imaginable, including colds, fevers, headaches, intestinal pain, coughs, asthma and glaucoma. They also give it to children for a variety of complaints, including teething and colic. (When given to babies and small children or infants, they steep only a leaf or two in hot water.)

They also make a "tonic" by pouring white rum over uncured leaves in a bottle (although I later heard that it doesn't matter) and then bury it in the ground for a couple weeks. When it's unearthed, the tonic has a bright green color; it's administered by the drop or teaspoon. It's used like the tea, but requires less preparation. Several women also use the ashes or the leaves in a poultice to heal a sore or a burn. It's all part of a rich tradition of herbal remedies that local people know about, although one

woman called ganja "the king of herbs."

So far, only one or two people have refused to meet with me. Everyone else has been amazingly generous and trusting. A lot of people are giving me ganja as a gift. My thinking about marijuana is changing drastically as I explore its role in the context of Jamaican culture. It's not just recreational. The ritual and medicinal uses are normalized and widespread, in both sexes and throughout all classes. Yet, in spite of its widespread use and integration with the culture, criminal penalties are severe.

Right now, my big problem is trying to find working-class men under the age of 50 who do not smoke ganja. Recruiting a matched sample for the clinical studies may take longer than we thought.

SEPTEMBER 3, 1971

Dear L—

I finally landed in a heavily populated, but rural, community that services a sugar estate. Hundreds of men are employed to cut and load sugar cane as wage laborers. Since the estate keeps track of all the cane each man cuts—this is how they're paid—it will allow me to correlate ganja smoking with physical productivity, controlling for age, experience, etc. I'll also be able to explore the use of ganja teas and tonics in a place where there are many households without women. Greater access to Rastafarian men and their families also looks promising.



JANUARY 3, 1972

Dear L—
This was my first holiday season in Jamaica, and I will trade the shopping frenzy in New York for curried goat, good rum and “sound system” dances any day. I’ve delayed my move back to my first community and am adding a third community to my comparison, a fishing/farming village near the estate. In addition to being great fishermen, they grow a lot of cane, which they sell to the estate instead of working as laborers. I think the comparison of how they use ganja during work will be interesting. On the estate, the workers smoked ganja—often provided by supervisors—similar to a coffee break in our culture. It’s relaxation, but with stimulation to get back to work. This sure isn’t consistent with the so-called “amotivational syndrome” that accounts for students allegedly dropping out of college when they smoke ganja.

It was great that you could visit last month when you were at the University of the West Indies. By the way, I’m not surprised that the ganja smokers did better on the psychological [tests] than the non-smokers; the 5 percent of working-class men who don’t integrate ganja smoking into their work and recreational life already are a little suspect. It’s good that you’re

“On the estate, the workers smoked ganja—often provided by supervisors—similar to a coffee break in our culture.”

interpreting these results in relation to the culture. Smoking ganja is so much a part of male social life here: like having a beer with friends after work in our culture. I’m not sure it’s really comparable to what is going on in North America.

JUNE 30, 1972

Dear L—
I finally found a place to board back in my first village. It was like coming home. The very Jamaican wood house is in the village, but high enough up to be cool at night and not so buggy. A lot of the farmers grow ganja on their “grounds” located at some distance from the village. (I’m getting better at keeping up with these guys as they walk to their gardens each day.) I’m learning a lot about the production side as it is grown deep in the interior, usually inaccessible

by vehicle. From what I can see, the farmers assume all the risk for the least returns. Most of them begin to sleep in their gardens toward the end of the growth cycle because of poachers. Two farmers reported being held at gunpoint while “Kingston men” loaded the ganja in their vehicle and drove away without any payment. Of course, these farmers can’t go to the police. One of the growers told me that his wife packs their ganja in the bottom of her market basket when she goes to Kingston to sell produce. She delivers it to the same trusted vendor and brings home more money for her ganja sales than from all the onions, carrots, peas, thyme, etc. Despite the risk, this is their best chance to have enough money to buy a piece of land, build a little house, and send their children to school and maybe even university.

OCTOBER 15, 1972

Dear L—
I’ve decided to finish my work and come home right after the

holidays. I could stay here forever and collect data, but it’s time to start writing if I want to finish a dissertation before I collect Social Security. There are definitely things I would like to explore in greater detail if I ever get to come back here. I really want to know more about the impact of ganja tea on children—particularly their school performance, but also on their ability to participate in the household economy.

I’d like to know more about medicinal use in general; it may be folk-derived, but it really works! Somebody should be looking at this—even if it’s not me.

If someone asks me at a cocktail party what I’ve been doing the past two years, I would have to say I’ve been learning about the culture of ganja in Jamaica. This is not just about the physiological or psychological effects of a substance on individuals who live in Jamaica. It’s about the relationship between a plant and a human society in so many dimensions: work, play, health and religion. 🌿



About the author

Melanie Dreher, Ph.D., M.Phil., MA, BS, is dean of the Department of Community Systems and Mental Health Nursing at Rush University in Chicago.

BRIEFS

THC Injection Inspection

Experimental intravenous administration of THC resulted in only a low percentage of minor adverse effects in human subjects according to a 13-year review of clinical trial data published in the journal *Psychopharmacology*.

The US Department of Veterans Affairs conducted the review of eleven separate studies evaluating 266 participants (14 schizophrenia patients and 252 healthy subjects—76 of whom were regular pot smokers). They were administered a total of 351 active

THC injections and 226 placebo infusions, with one year of follow-up research on each subject. Of those, there was only one “serious event” and 70 “minor adverse events” involving 9.7 percent of the patients and 7.4 infusions. Nausea and dizziness were the most often reported side effects and mostly associated with increased injection rates (every two to five minutes) and higher doses, leaving researchers to conclude, “... risk to subjects is relatively low.”

Even longer-term data was gathered on 149 of the subjects; 94 percent of those (both users and non-users) reporting no change in their desire to

use or not use cannabis, with 18 percent of actual users decreasing their pot intake and three percent reporting their pot use increased over the years.

The DNA of P-O-T

It’s finally been accomplished: Kevin McKernan, who previously worked on the Human Genome Project—the global research initiative to identify and map the body’s estimated 20,000-plus genes, which was completed in 2003—has sequenced the entire genome of the *Cannabis sativa* plant. (The genome is a given organism’s complete

hereditary information, as encoded in its DNA.) Inspired by reports of cannabis’s role in shrinking tumors, McKernan founded Medicinal Genomics in 2010. At a cost of \$200,000, his company went to work unlocking the genetic sequence of the coveted Chem-dog strain. When this raw data is properly organized into a fully coherent genome, the info can be utilized in a number of ways, including the ability to generate new strains.

With the pot genome fully sequenced, individually targeted genes can now be “turned on” or “turned off” using the

techniques of molecular biology. Medicinal Genomics promises to deliver such results via “genome-directed breeding.” It should be noted that many of these techniques have already been utilized for years by cultivators and research scientists,



but with the entire DNA sequence of pot finally mapped out, genetic manipulation is that much easier. For better and for worse, this also means that those opposed to marijuana’s intoxicating effects will be better equipped to accentuate its therapeutic capabilities while lessening its psychoactive properties.

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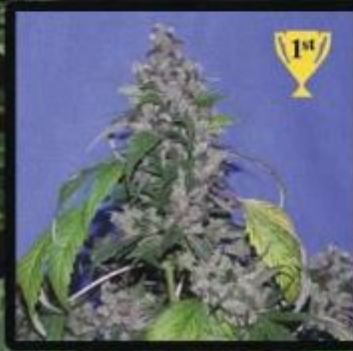
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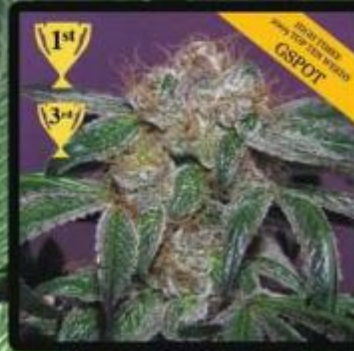
VISC



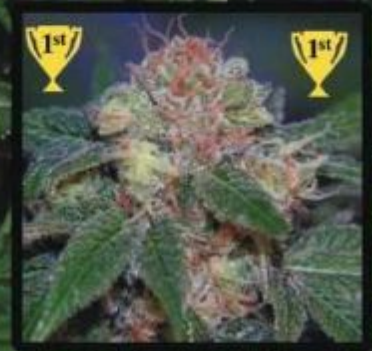
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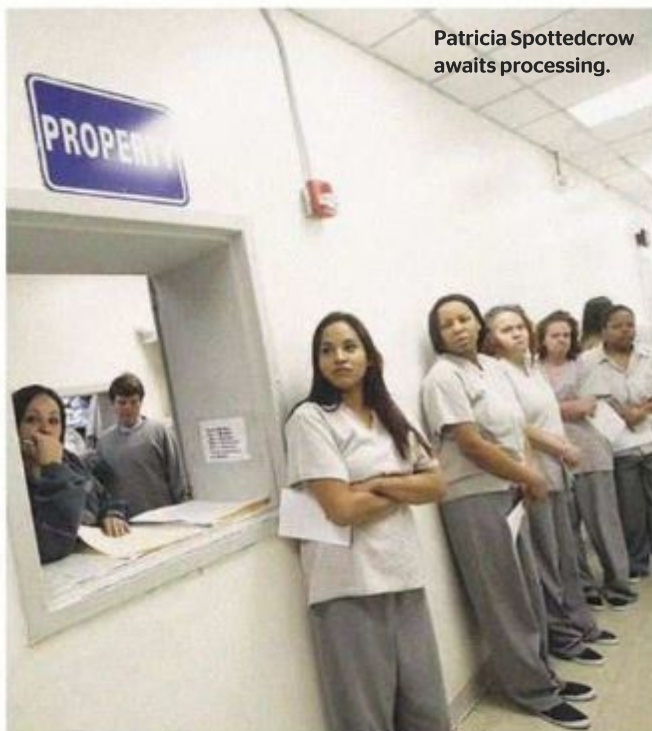
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Patricia Spottedcrow awaits processing.

NOT OKAY IN OK

25-year-old mother of four receives 10-year prison sentence for selling \$31 worth of weed.

The tragic tale of Patricia Spottedcrow is a particularly wretched example of Oklahoma's Draconian pot laws. Spottedcrow, 25, was sentenced to spend 10 years in prison for selling marijuana to a police informant on two separate occasions in late 2009 and early 2010—for a grand narco-trafficking total of \$31.

Spottedcrow and her 50-year-old mother, who was also arrested, turned down a plea bargain that involved serving two years apiece over concerns, Spottedcrow said, for her mother's health. Instead, the two entered "blind pleas" (i.e., pleading guilty with no prior sentencing arrangements) and, as first-time nonviolent offenders, hoped for probation. However, Kingfisher County Associate District Judge Susie Pritchett handed Spottedcrow a decade-long sentence that she later described to the Tulsa World as "lenient" because the defendant was running "an extensive operation." (Imagine if she'd sold \$35 worth of pot!) Fortunately, her mother was given a 30-year suspended sentence so she could raise Patricia's four small children.

Spottedcrow, an unemployed former nursing assistant, had turned to marijuana sales to support her family and now will miss seeing her children grow up at least until 2014, which is the earliest she's eligible for parole.



Life Advice (from Supermodels)

Dutch supermodel Lara Stone recently weighed in on the issue of getting high in Holland: "You just buy it and smoke it, and that's a good idea. Why not? I used to smoke so much pot when I was living here. That's why I can't remember so much!"

BRIEFS:

Evil Bongos of OZ

Despite the popularity of bongos in Australia—they're even sold in gas stations—the government of Victoria (Australia's most densely populated state) plans to outlaw water pipe paraphernalia in 2012. Mental Health Minister Mary Wooldridge introduced legislation in Parliament intending to close the loophole previously permitting retail shops to sell bongos by displaying a "Tobacco Use Only" sign. Wooldridge wants to end the "mixed message" wherein marijuana is illegal, yet bongos are openly sold. Australian Drug and Alcohol Research director Paul Dillon told Adelaide Now banning bongos will do little to curtail pot use—one-third of Victorians have tried it—and users will simply turn to other alternatives. Aussies who covet water filtration can still buy traditional hookahs and nargiles, which won't be displayed but can still be purchased legally.

Bongos are out in 2012.



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MUNCHIES

MORNING MANGÚ MOJO

Caribbean Wake and Bakefast.

During the excruciatingly cold winter of 2009-'10, while my NYC and New Jersey friends and family were avoiding black ice and yellow snow, I was the detestable bitch in the middle of a 10-month stretch in the beautiful, sunny northern coastal town of Cabarete in the Dominican Republic.

Though I was there to write (and definitely put in my hours), the rum flowed at the hip clubs that lined the beach and blasted all types of dance music in flashes of rainbow-colored strobe lights.

This is where I scored my weed and spent so many memorable nights—and just as many forgotten ones—with an ever-changing cast of new friends from around the world.

While there were rare occasions when I'd score something from the inland Santiago region, where the red clay and soil mix is conducive to long, dense, red-haired buds, for the most part it was Jamaican or Colombian brick.

The pot laws are brutal in the DR, so I didn't smoke any weed on the beach. I stuck to enjoying blunts and incense in my apartment and, when I finally started getting local prices, to making ganja dishes for myself and my friends.

Mangú is one of my favorite Dominican breakfast foods, period—but when I added every last iota extracted out of that flaky brick weed into this filling, energy-packed dish, I'd get a yummy high that lasted for miles of stung-over (as in “stoned/hung-over”) powdery-beachcombing and sparkling blue ocean. *-Mary Ought Six*

MEDICAL MANGÚ

- ½ stick or so (preferably a little over) of unsalted butter
- ¼ oz marijuana shake or ground-up buds
- 4 green (unripe) plantains
- 2 tbsp oil
- 2 large white onions
- 1 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 cup cold water
- 1½ tsp salt

Melt all of the butter in a double-boiler over low heat. Add the marijuana and stir occasionally for 45 minutes. If you smell any toastiness, immediately remove it from the heat and set aside. Strain butter through a cheese cloth to remove plant matter.

An easy way to peel the plantains is to slice them in half lengthwise and then across so you can pop them from the tough skin. Place the plantain pieces in a pot and cover with water, adding a pinch of salt for each plantain being boiled (so, in this

recipe, four pinches). When the plantain pieces are tender to the tines of a fork, remove from heat.

While the plantains boil, heat the oil in a frying pan. Sauté the sliced onions with a teaspoon of salt and the red wine vinegar. Once the onions are tender and translucent with a buen aroma, set them aside. Take the plantains from the water and begin mashing them with a fork. Gradually add the marijuana-infused butter (while it's still soft) and the cold water. Continue mashing until the consistency is smooth. Plate up your wake-and-bake fest and top with the onions. This dish is dank when also served with huevos frito (fried eggs), queso frito (fried cheese—try to find the firm, white Dominican queso de freir and slice it thin, then dip in flour or cornstarch and fry in oil until golden in color), and/or some fried slices of hard salami. *Stones 4.*

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Activist Campus of the Month

At a conservative school, in a conservative city, in a conservative state, Students for Sensible Drug Policy members now comprise nearly one-third of the University of Houston's student legislature—a reality we made happen by forming a political party on campus with groups that were our natural allies. On Election Day, our party won a majority in the senate, and several SSDP members were appointed to the University Committee on Substance Abuse and Prevention, which for the first time will be committed to implementing policies of rehabilitation and recovery instead of incarceration and eviction. *Michael McHugh*

Learn more at hightimes.com/ssdp.

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Miss January 2012

NAME: **Cassandra** PROFILE: **Cassativa**
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OCCUPATION: **Army vet, budtender**



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Arkansas	Paron	OG Kush	300
California	Lemoore San Jose	Master Kush	220
		XJ-13	260
		Space Queen	250
Colorado	Colorado Springs	White Russian	240
		Super Lemon Haze	240
		Strawberry Cough	230
Florida	Pensacola	Durban Poison	375
Georgia	Athens	Blue Dream	400
		Green Crack	400
Idaho	Moscow	Blueberry	225
Indiana	Bloomington Terre Haute	Northern Lights	325
		Kushberry	350
Maryland	Baltimore	Mids	125
Michigan	Ann Arbor Detroit	Purps	450
		Sour Diesel	450
	Rochester	Granddaddy Urkel	450
		OG Kush	300
Montana	Missoula	Bubblegum	400
		Big Buddha Cheese	200
Nebraska	Lincoln	Northern Lights	150
		Purps	475
North Carolina	Conover Statesville	Diesel	425
		Jack Herer	350
Ohio	Mansfield	Super Lemon Haze	350
		Crimea Blue	350
		Blue Dream	430
Oregon	Eugene La Pine	Bubba Kush	400
		Kush	150
		Diesel	200
Rhode Island	Providence	Bubblegum	200
		Chocolate Chunk	350
		Strawberry Diesel	380
Tennessee	Cookeville Nashville	Blue Dream	350
		Maui Wowie	350
		Commercial	110
Texas	Houston	White Widow	600
		Jack Herer	280
		Snowcap	300
Utah	Ogden	Romulan	300
		Purple Afghan	250
		Sour Diesel	250
Washington	Seattle	Purps	200
West Virginia	Morgantown	Sour Diesel	370
INTERNATIONAL			
Canada	Ottawa	M-39	C\$150
		Blueberry	160
		Jack Herer	180
		Grapefruit	180

INDEX WATCH

Prices by the ounce

After hitting a year-low average of \$328 in December, the US Price Index kicked off the new year by dropping an additional \$12. The Mids Index also fell (by \$6), while the Kind Index finished slightly above its previous month's average. Both indices finished January below their 2011 averages.

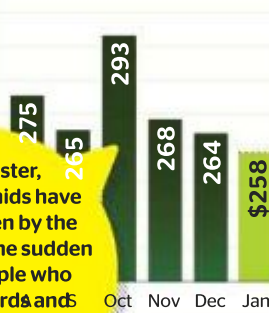
US Price Index
YTD Average: \$316



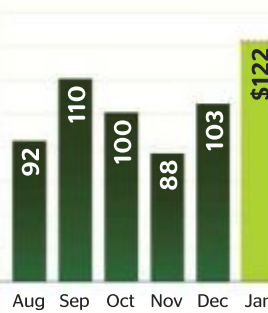
Kind Index
YTD Average: \$401



Mids Index
YTD Average: \$258



Schwag Index
YTD Average: \$122



"In Rochester, reggies and mids have basically fallen by the wayside with the sudden influx of people who have med cards and think they'll grow the best strain."
-Rochester, MI

We want to know what you're smoking!
Submit your strain information, including location and price by the ounce, to thmq@hightimes.com.

"(Green Crack) smells like cough medicine, has a fruity taste, and leaves you in a deep stone."
-Athens, GA



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Fly Agaric Grade A Caps
Amanita muscaria



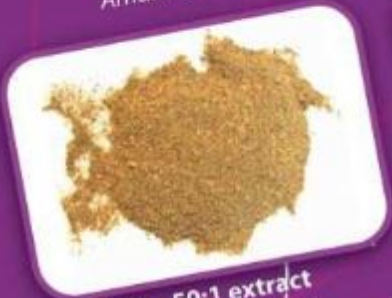
Fly Agaric 10:1 extract
Amanita muscaria



Damiana 50:1 extract
Turnera diffusa



African Dream Seed
Entada rheedii



Kanna 50:1 extract
Sceletium tortuosum



Kratom 100:1 extract
Mitragyna speciosa



Blue Lotus 50:1 extract
Nymphaea caerulea



**Hawaiian Baby Woodrose
Seeds - *Argyreia nervosa***

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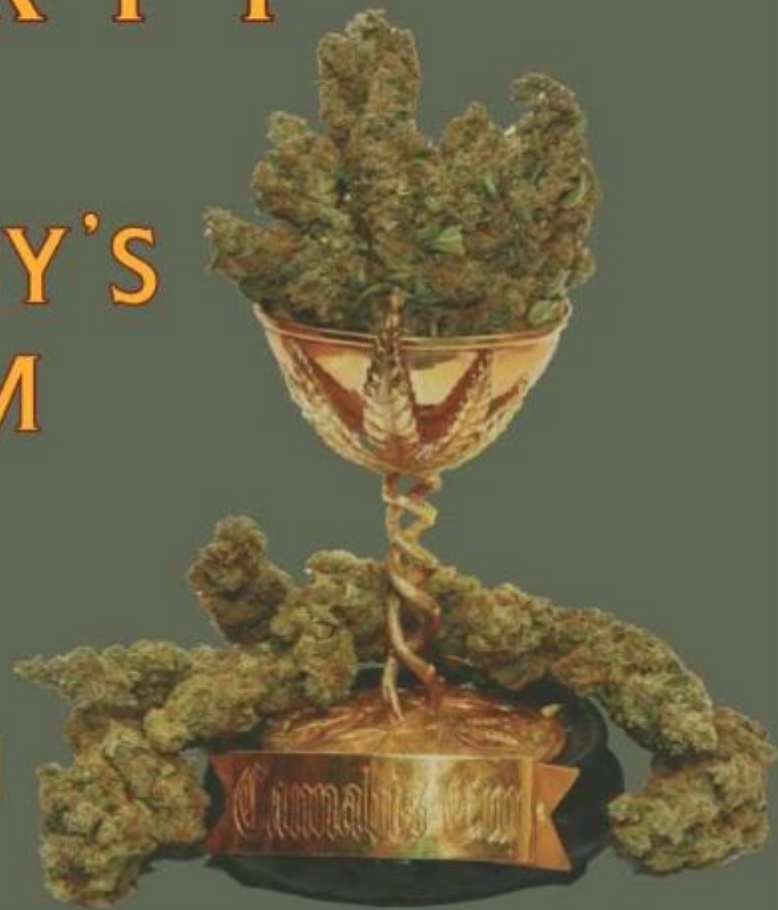
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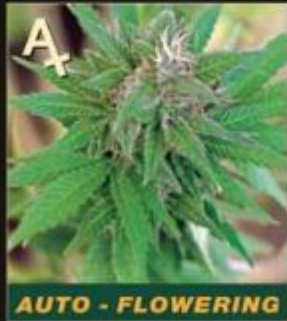
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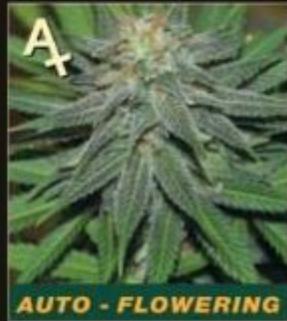
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Seed Company®

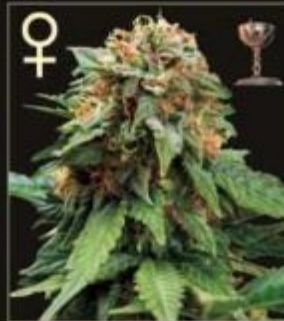
THE WORLDS NUMBER 1 SEED BREEDER
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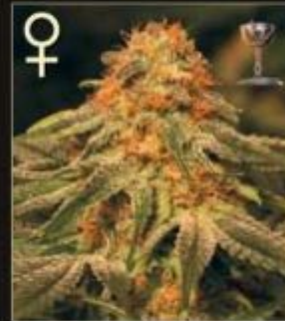
Little Cheese



Pineapple Express



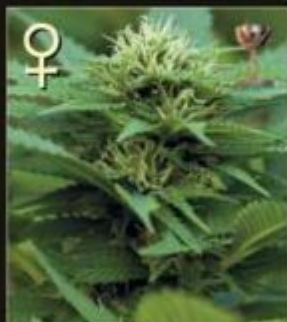
Tangerine Dream



Vanilla Kush



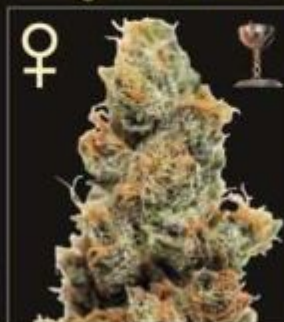
Blue Cheese



LSD



G13 Haze



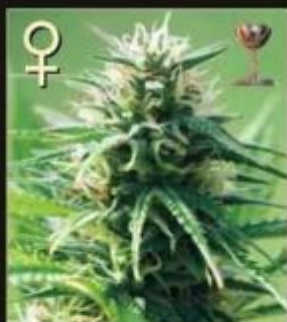
Pineapple Chunk



Red Cherry Berry



Amnesia Lemon



Sweet Tooth



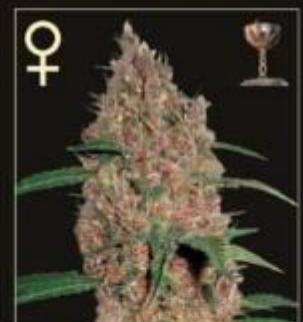
Dr. Grinspoon



Acapulco Gold



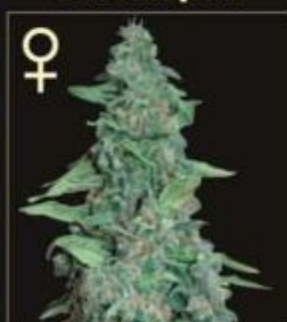
Utopia Haze



Laughing Buddha



Red Diesel



Honey B



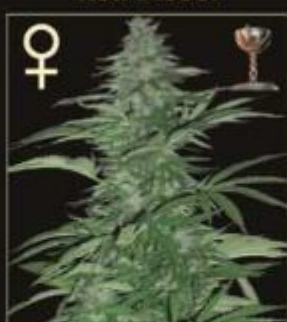
Phatt Fruity



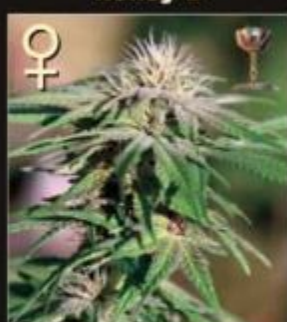
8 Ball Kush



Red Dragon



Morning Glory



Night Shade



Top Dawg



Violator Kush



Crimea Blue

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Greatest
Hits




STONER SUPERLATIVES


The world of cannabis is very much like the stat-saturated world of baseball: There are top performers in every kind of category imaginable. So we decided to present our own picks for the most memorable achievements in marijuana land—the best and the worst, the hits and the misses.

KUSH SUPPORT!
ODDEST NAME
FOR A NON-POT
PRODUCT


Hardest-Working Strain

 The backbone of so many modern-day strains, NL5 x Haze is Sensi Seed Bank's cross of Northern Lights #5 and the formidable Haze. The resulting strain achieves a perfect balance: It's both classic and new, with the sweetness of the Northern Lights and the tang of the Haze blending into a rich, robust smoke that provides a nearly psychedelic and supremely uplifting high. And arthritis sufferers take note: Anecdotal evidence indicates that the NL5 x Haze is useful in treating the ailment.

Biggest Joint

 It made its appearance at the Seattle Hempfest in 2008: Approximately three feet long and six inches wide, this über-joint was crafted using 10 rolls of E-Z Wider rolling papers, a bucketful of Blueberry and a cardboard paper-towel roll as the filter. Among the hundreds of Hempfest attendees who partook of its glory were HT's own Bobby Black, NORML founder Keith Stroup and the late, great Jack Herer.

Most Confusing Legal Ruling

 The Supreme Court ruled in 1994 that if you get caught

Most Moronic Fearmongering





"I now have absolute proof that smoking even one marijuana cigarette is equal in brain damage to being on Bikini Island during an H-bomb blast."

—President Ronald Reagan


with a pipe used for smoking pot, you're in possession of "drug paraphernalia"—but if you've been using Grandpa's pipe to get high, you're in the clear. It all depends on the pipe: If it's colorful and made of glass, you've committed a crime; if it's a classic briar or corncob pipe, you're okay. That's because it's the pipe that manifests the criminal intent, with the high court ruling that criminality "objectively" resides in the product's likely use rather than the defendant's state of mind. Unfortunately, you'll still be the one who goes to jail—not the pipe.

Dumbest Pot Bust

 A young couple in Callaway, FL,  was charged with possession with intent to deliver as well as possession of drug paraphernalia. The cops ended up searching their home after responding to a call that the couple themselves had

made—apparently, someone broke into their place and made off with a quarter-pound of weed, and they wanted the cops to get it back so they could sell it. Good thinking, dumbasses.

Oddest Name For a Non-Pot Product

 Do you need Kush Support? No, not a constant, unfettered supply of top-grade buds—Kush Support is a device for women who sleep on their sides. It's a high-quality plastic thingamajig that's placed between the breasts to promote comfort and alignment, relieve pressure on delicate tissues and prevent cleavage wrinkles.

Best TV Show

 When HIGH TIMES celebrated its 25th anniversary, we named *The Twilight Zone* and *The Simpsons* as the top stoner



"Eat your heart out, Cheech & Chong!"
—Bobby Black


Scan here to watch Bobby take a hit from the world's largest joint!




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TV shows of all time. But not any more: AMC's *Breaking Bad*, which chronicles the exploits of a cancer-stricken high-school chemistry teacher turned meth kingpin, is positively addictive—with more startling twists and turns, both comic and horrific, than you'll see on-screen anywhere in the broadcasting universe. In fact, we'll go so far as to say that it's the best TV show ever, stoner or not. Making audiences root for a dude who produces this poison is downright subversive—and we can't wait for the next episode.

Cooliest Grow Op

 Batman's got nothing on these guys: In December 2005, the authorities raided a million-dollar vacation home in the woodlands of Tennessee. The house was empty, but in the garage they discovered a hidden door that led to a series of underground caves as long as a football field that contained a "shockingly" sophisticated hydro operation. The growrooms held 1,000 plants and generated 12 to 14 crops per year—for an estimated \$6 million to \$8 million annually. The pot bunker also included full living quarters and a concealed escape hatch, the top of which was disguised as a large rock in the yard.

Best Stoner Rock Band


 Queens of the Stone Age arose from the ashes of their stoner rock progenitors, Kyuss, to deliver their eponymously titled 1998 debut, which blew the doors open for the multitude of grunge-slugged, psych-metal proponents that followed in their wake.

Most Effective Pot Activist

 Every political movement needs an elder statesman, someone whose deep and abiding commitment commands respect and provides inspiration to all those who join the cause. Our community has Dr. Lester Grinspoon, associate professor emeritus at Harvard Medical School. The author of *Marihuana Reconsidered* and *Marihuana: The Forbidden Medicine*, Dr. Grinspoon has long since retired from teaching, but at

Top Pot Heroes



 Who else but the late, great Jack Herer, the granddaddy of the modern marijuana movement, and Dennis Peron, the premier medical-pot pioneer?

"Here I was trained in science and medicine and had to discover that I had been brain-washed like every other American."

-Dr. Lester Grinspoon



Disguised as a rock, this door led to an underground grow op, the coolest garden we've ever come across.

age 83, he still writes frequently about medical marijuana and continues to educate the public through his own websites and frequent media interviews. He even traveled to Denver this year to address the 40th Annual NORML Conference. An amazing purebred *sativa* strain named Dr. Grinspoon is now available—feel free to burn some in his honor!

Best New Way to Ingest Pot

 To enjoy the latest innovation that's taken root among health-conscious cannabis aficionados, you'll need a vegetable juicer. A growing number of people claim that raw cannabis juice—made from the fresh leaves and/or buds

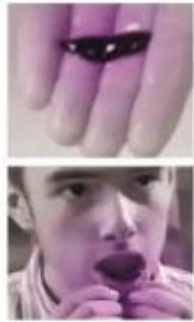
of the plant—contains tremendous healing powers. One such person is Kristen Peskuski, a survivor of multiple life-threatening ailments, who credits drinking raw pot with restoring her health. Read more at hightimes.com/rawpot/.

Most Pot-Friendly State

 California... duh. More pot is grown here than anywhere else on the planet. The Golden State has the most pot smokers, most dispensaries, most activists, most research, most strains and most consistently great pot. It also has a national reputation for wackadoo lifestyles and rampant nonconformity, but make no mistake—Californians are doggedly determined, and their groundbreaking work has laid the foundation for legalized pot across America.

Stupidest Anti-Drug Ad: Slomming

Over the years, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America and its allies have released so much stupid, irresponsible, fear-mongering propaganda that it's hard to choose just one as the dumbest. You've got the dog talking to the girl, the girl who's melted into the couch, or the classic "This is your brain on drugs" breakfast ad from the '80s. But the most bizarre of the bunch was an "Above the Influence" TV ad that showed a number of teens in school engaged in what they referred to as "slomming"



(short for "sticking leeches on me"). We assume this was meant to discourage the act of succumbing to peer pressure, but really—equating smoking a joint with attaching bloodsucking creatures to your body? And we're the ones who are supposed to be fucked up

Best New Album to Zonk Out To

With a name like Fucked Up, these visceral Toronto punk rockers clearly aren't counting on mainstream radio play—which is too bad (for mainstream radio), because Fucked Up have scored big with their monumental

narrative opus, 2011's *David Comes to Life*. Supercolliding dramatic theatricality with gruff-throated howls, shoe-gazing blissfulness and white-noise intensity, they've managed to one-up their earlier gargantuan hardcore epic, 2008's *The Chemistry of Common Life*.

Top Baseball Stoners: Past & Present

While playing for the Boston Red Sox from '69 to '78, Bill "Spaceman" Lee drove manager Don Zimmer to fits with his comments to the press about "sprinkling marijuana on my pancakes" before jogging to Fenway Park for games. Lee's antics endeared him to offbeat sports fans who appreciated his wit and candor—in fact, by the time he was banished to the Montreal Expos, fans would throw foil-wrapped balls of hash to him after a good start. His controversial appearance on the cover of *HIGH TIMES* in 1980 cemented his place in counterculture history.

More recently, the man known as "the Freak" is now more often referred to as "the Franchise": Tim Lincecum of the San Francisco Giants was busted for pot just two weeks before he received his second Cy Young Award as best pitcher in the National League. These days, you can buy T-shirts proclaiming "Let Tim Smoke!", while a strain called the Freak is a popular item in Bay Area dispensaries.



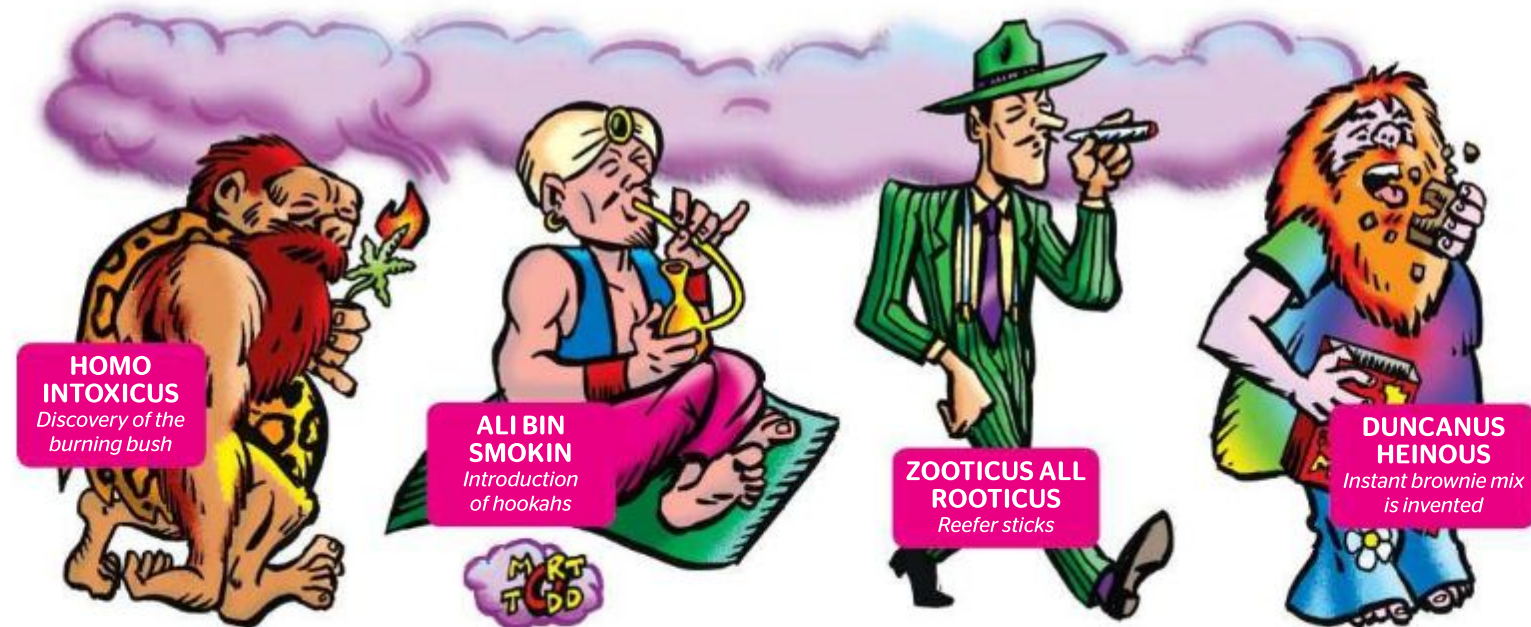
"I sprinkle marijuana on my pancakes!" -Bill Lee



Best New Psychedelic Tour: Roger Waters' The Wall

For a totally overloaded sensory experience that's more art exhibit than rock opera, don't miss the trippy re-creation of Roger Waters' rock opera, *The Wall*. It's nothing like the original '79 Pink Floyd tour: This new *Wall* is a mass of video screens fusing powerful footage (of Iraq War soldiers returning home to their children, for example) with

The Evolution of Tokers (*Homo Sativa Sapiens*)



HOMO INTOXICUS
Discovery of the burning bush


ALI BIN SMOKIN
Introduction of hookahs

ZOOTICUS ALL ROOTICUS
Reefer sticks

DUNCANUS HEINOUS
Instant brownie mix is invented

20-foot-tall bug-eyed puppets and flashy pyrotechnics, and it reinforces a message from Waters that still manages to be meaningful three decades later. The only bad news is that you'll have to book plane tickets to see it: The Wall tours New Zealand and Australia in February 2012 before heading to South America in March. Visit roger-waters.com.


Most Daring Grow

 A Massachusetts couple devised an interesting use for the dumpster in their yard. After their outdoor plot had been compromised, they moved their budding bushes to the only place they could keep a good eye on them—literally 25 feet from the sidewalk and the road. The plants were finished out and harvested with no one being the wiser. One man's trash is another man's THC!



A dumpster, a mere 25 feet from the gardener's home, provided a secret flowering room in plain sight.

Top Pot Comics


 They're two different strains of cannabis comedian: Joe Rogan is edgy, raw and incisive about pot issues, while Doug Benson offers a more dreamy and stoned stand-up persona that has made him a mascot of the pot world, especially with the release of his comedy doc *Super High Me*.

"Marijuana is better for me than Paxil."
—*Ricky Williams*

Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey once belittled marijuana as "Cheech & Chong medicine." However, Barry neglected one minor detail in attempting to slur cannabis and/or the veteran comedy stars: Cheech & Chong medicine actually works! Just like the boys themselves, who've been diligently plying their trade in the medium of stoned

silliness since the 1970s.

Top NFL Stoner

 He's a vegan, a yoga instructor who's studied Ayurvedic medicine, and one of the National Football League's premier running backs—and he's tested positive for pot four times. But though Ricky Williams is watched like a hawk

Top Pot Legends


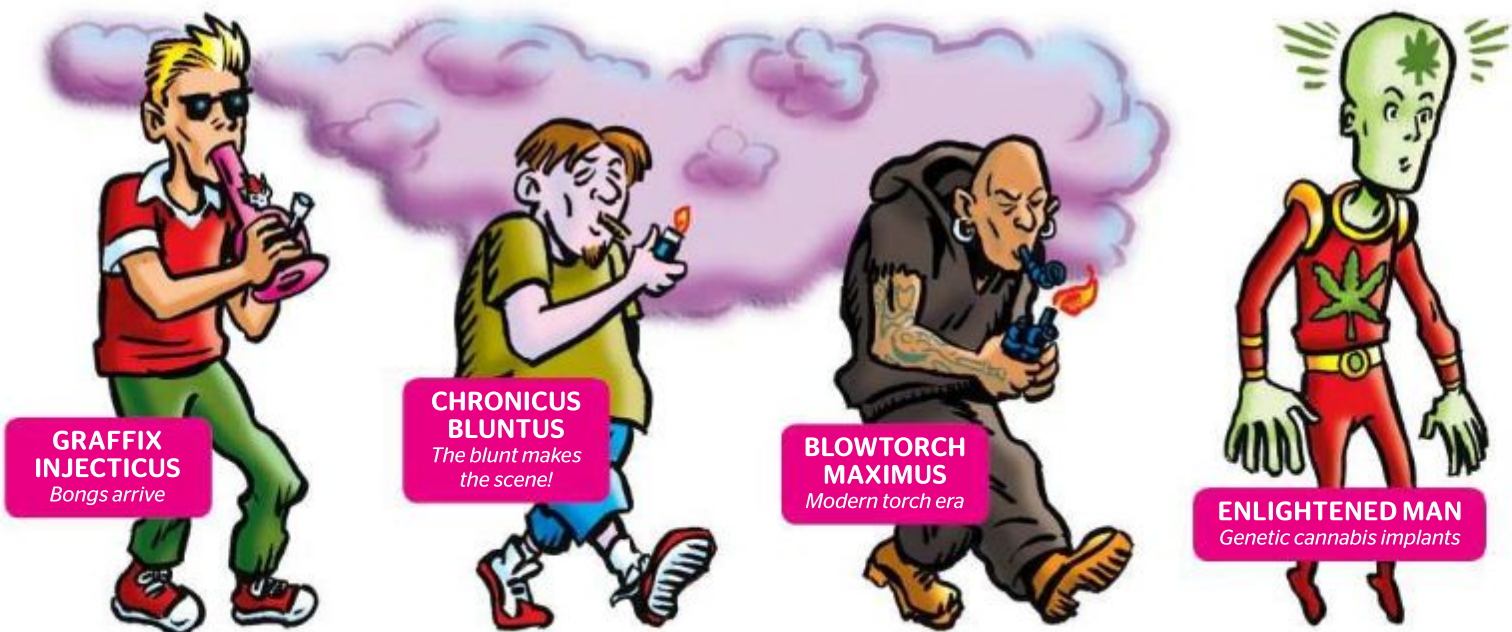
 It's hard to believe, but "Cheech & Chong" has now become an adjective—former

ILLUSTRATION: MORT TODD



GRAFFIX INJECTICUS
Bongs arrive

CHRONICUS BLUNTUS
The blunt makes the scene!

BLOWTORCH MAXIMUS
Modern torch era


ENLIGHTENED MAN
Genetic cannabis implants

these days (or at least his urine is), he says he'll probably resume pot smoking once his football career is over.

Best Stoner Guitarist


 Latino-American axe handler Carlos Santana still reigns supreme. The spiritual pro-weed advocate hit his stride in the '70s with the mighty Abraxas and never looked back. His lucid arpeggiated chords ring truest on the gliding instrumental jam "Song for Devadip," from his overlooked '78 sanctification, *Oneness*.

Biggest Domestic Garden

 Eddy Lepp sowed a garden in Lake County, CA, of 35,000 medical-marijuana plants. Volunteers worked night and day to tend, prune and water the farm, which resembled a winery in its symmetry and beauty. Unfortunately, the authorities felt otherwise and swooped in to bust Eddy and destroy the medicine. Imprisoned in 2009, the 58-year-old Vietnam War vet still has eight more years to serve on his 10-year sentence.

Send mail to Charles "Eddy" Lepp c/o 90157011, Federal Prison Camp, 3705 West Farm Road, Lompoc, CA 93436.


Best Celebrity Activist

 Woody Harrelson has continually put his fame on the line in support of cannabis causes, donating millions of dollars and even getting himself busted in 1996 for planting four hemp seeds in Kentucky. If there were an



Most Transparent Ad Grabs For Stoner Dollars



 When Nike began marketing skater T-shirts last summer emblazoned with "Get High" and "Dope," their corporate rationale was that "Sport is an antidote to drugs." Right—because kids are buying these tees for their clear anti-drug message.

And how about Budweiser? Suddenly, the company's longtime ad slogan has been significantly altered: It's no longer "This Bud's for You"—these days, it's "Grab Some Buds." And you expect us to believe that no one on the corporate level managed to notice that blatant reference to marijuana?


What, are you high?



"I don't go through all this trouble just because I want to make my drug of choice legal. It's about personal freedom. We should have the right in this country to do what we want, if we don't hurt anybody"
—Woody Harrelson


Academy Award for Hollywood activists, Woody's Oscar would be made of hemp.

Top NBA Stoners

 What is it about playing center? Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Robert Parish and Bill Walton—all NBA Hall of Famers—each had a close relationship with cannabis. Abdul-Jabbar wrote about his pot use in his autobiography, *Giant Steps* (but said it never helped him make a jump shot). Walton was a Deadhead and made no secret of his affinity for weed, while Parish made headlines in 1991 when cops intercepted two ounces shipped to his house. His \$37 fine became a rallying point for MassCann activists, and today possession of less

than one ounce has been decriminalized in Massachusetts.

Biggest Disappoint

 Despite President Barack Obama's promises to the contrary, the Feds continue their war on the medical marijuana industry. Moreover, the Justice Department has recently dug in its heels and doubled down on its stated position that pot has no medical value whatsoever. After decades of abuse at the hands of unenlightened presidents, the cannabis community expected a lot more from this one, especially given his forceful rhetoric on the campaign trail. Alas, it's been a case of "Barack to the Future."

"I was born, went to 'Nam, lived in a bottle for 20 years, then found God and ganja"

—Eddy Lepp

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BEST GANJA
YOGA CLASS




“For some people, it makes them uninhibited and open to the idea of a heart chakra.”

—Dee Dussault

Best Ganja Yoga Class

 Toronto-based Dee Dussault teaches “ganja yoga.” She offers the classes in her home yoga studio, artsy lofts, hotel rooms, even at the stoner-friendly Hot Box Cafe in the Kensington Market neighborhood. Her classes can be giddy, trippy experiences for some, but she encourages ganja use as a sacred vehicle to arrive at profound kundalini awakenings. Dee has had mostly positive feedback, except for a few puritanical yoga practitioners who claim that achieving nirvana shouldn't rely on any external aids. Dee reminds them that in ancient India, yogis would smoke hash or imbibe ganja-infused milk drinks to enhance their spiritual experiences. She also believes that entheogenic substances are the crux of all mystical traditions and touts cannabis, mushrooms, and other forbidden delights as a tool for awakening the “God within.”

Most Promising New Politician

 While more people than ever support the full legalization of marijuana in America—over 50 percent in


“The more states create a regulatory structure around marijuana production and sales, the more pressure there will be on Congress nationally.”

—Jared Polis



some polls—our politicians continue to lag behind the times. As we went to press with this issue, only 13 members of Congress had signed on to co-sponsor HR 2306, the Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2011. One of those enlightened pols is Congressman Jared Polis of Colorado, the tech entrepreneur turned elected representative who's made a name for himself as a staunch defender of Colorado's groundbreaking medical-marijuana program. Additionally, Polis touts legalization as a way to save taxpayers money, create good jobs, shrink big government, fight Mexican drug cartels, and stop the senseless arrest of nearly one million Americans every year.


Biggest Foreign Pot Farm Bust

 In July 2011, the Mexican army seized what it described as the largest marijuana farm in the country's history—a 300-acre pot plantation in Baja California that required 60 workers. The authorities claimed that it could yield as much as 120 tons of pot annually, worth an estimated \$160 million. The garden was hidden in plain sight under black netting in the desert.


Top Pot Rallies

 In North America, there are no equals: The Seattle Hempfest has been drawing hundreds of thousands of pot fans for 20 years and, in August 2011, devoted three days to the celebration. Further north, the Toronto Freedom Festival has drawn over 40,000 people for five consecutive years and features a boisterous annual parade through the city's streets.

Best Headphone Experience

 The psychedelized Scottish band known as the Aliens landed atop the subterranean jungle with their 2009 gem, *Luna*. The album's epicurean opener, “Bobby's Song,” finishes up with a trippy, dope-smokin' mantra that will hook every serious Beatles disciple, while tracks like the fascinatingly hallucinatory “Theremin” drift mellifluously into the ether.

Most Amazing Pot Cure (Well, Almost)

 Lamb and Lynx Gaede were raised as neo-Nazis. At the tender age of 11, they began performing songs about white supremacy as Prussian Blue, their singing group. But pot “saved” their lives, they say, rescuing Lynx in particular from the scourge of pharmaceuticals, which had wrecked her health after she was diagnosed with cancer. The Gaede twins have become advocates for the legalization of medical marijuana in all 50 states, and they also say that pot has made them more tolerant of humanity.

Still, a few pesky issues remain, such as the Holocaust. Lynx allows that “certain things happened,” but adds: “I think a lot of the stories got misconstrued. I mean, yeah, Hitler wasn't the best, but Stalin wasn't, Churchill wasn't. I disagree with everybody at that time.” And Lamb opines: “I just think everyone needs to freakin' get over it. That's what I think.” ✨

Do you have a greatest best/worst pot fact that you'd like to see on next year's Hit List? Send it to: hteditor@hightimes.com.

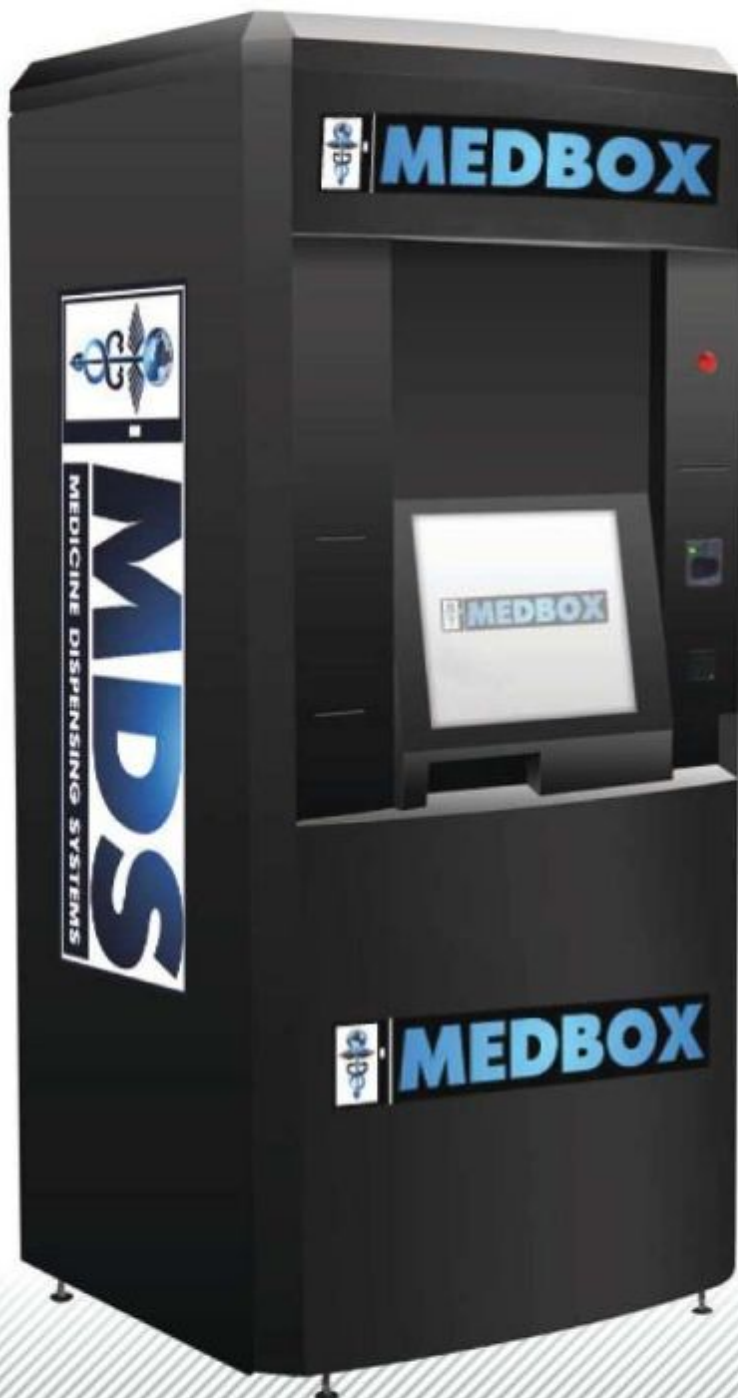
The **GREEN** Machine.

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COLORADO CHAMPIONS



The producers of three award-winning strains
throw open the doors to their grow ops.

Story & photos by Dan Skye

Last April, we brought the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup to Denver. For two days, the dispensaries of the Rocky Mountain State shared their products with thousands of attendees. Over 150 different samples of pot, concentrates and assorted edibles were entered into the official competition—and two stellar dispensaries took home the top three prizes for best strains. ✨ So what does it take to grow a champion strain? One thing is patience—for your plants, and for the Colorado cannabis industry itself.

Double Delight

A Denver operation takes home two Medical Cannabis Cups.

‘We’re going for the connoisseur product, not for yield,” says Corey, the lead grower for Mile High Green Cross in Denver. “We grow everything the same way. We don’t run any hydro, nutes—nothing. Everything gets the same system, the same feed. If it doesn’t work in this system, we don’t keep it.”

Whatever they’re doing, it’s certainly working: Mile High won first-place honors in both the hybrid and *indica* categories of the HIGH TIMES Denver Cup. The gardens here are all-soil and all-organic, “with a lot of sugars and beneficials,” Corey says. The plants are grown under air-cooled 1,000-watt lights, and CO₂ is run in all the rooms. But instead of the huge warehouse-sized grow spaces that some larger outfits operate, Mile High prefers smaller rooms that are easier to monitor. Strains are sectioned off and the temperatures are controlled more efficiently, especially during the hot summer months.

Mile High’s sensational version of Sour Grape (Grape Ape x Sour Diesel) won the Denver Medical Cannabis Cup for top hybrid. “People say that there are seeds available now,” Corey notes, “but our strain is actually clone-only.”

Sour Grape has been remarkably effective for patients who seek to relieve stress or anxiety; patients report that it’s a great source of pain relief as well. (Ninety-four percent of legal cardholders in Colorado cite severe pain as a factor in their decision to use medical marijuana.)

Mile High’s Banana Kush (Banana x OG Kush), another clone-only strain, won for *indica*. “It has far more *indica* than Sour Grape; it just mellows you out completely, Corey says. “Both grow similarly in appearance and bud structure—they’re very calyx-y, and late in the cycle, they start fox-tailing off, throwing off different sections of bud.”

Simple Garden, Super Plants

A Fort Collins dispensary grows a top sativa.

Snow Dog, a product of the Natural Alternatives for Health dispensary in Fort Collins, was named top *sativa* at the HIGH TIMES Denver Cup. “It’s a Chemdog crossed with Oregon Snow, and it’s clone-only,” says Nestor, who manages the dispensary. “It’s one of the better-yielding Chem strains. As far as flavor and aroma, it’s difficult to describe. It’s very complex—it definitely



Mile High Green Cross owners Adam, Leif and Corey proudly hold their Cups.

resembles other Chem strains, but it’s a mixture of fine, sweet notes as well as what some people refer to as the ‘Fruity Chem.’”

The flowering room at Natural Alternatives for Health is a “sealed, recirculating system.” In other words, there’s no intake or exhaust. Instead, temperature, humidity and other environmental factors are controlled by an air-conditioning unit, a dehumidifier, oscillating fans and a CO₂ generator.

The room is set to 70°F and 50% humidity. However, sometimes the temperature rises to 76°F, with humidity around 30% to 40% toward the end of the light cycle. The dark cycle runs at 68°F to 70°F at 50% humidity. The CO₂ generator is set to fire when the ppm drops below 1,000, and shuts off at 1,500. Drip irrigation has been installed, but the plants are usually hand-fed plain, filtered water, as well as an aerated compost tea once or twice monthly. The plants grow in both 5-gallon buckets and 15-gallon containers. A living, nutrient-dense, concentrated soil mix is added to the bottom layer of these containers before transplanting. This organic concentrate provides a reservoir of nutes that will fully nourish the plants through a vigorous bloom stage without the hassle of mixing, matching, weighing and measuring liquid nutrients every couple of days.

The soil is recycled continually and re-amended for every cycle as needed. “In fact,” says Nestor, “this grow op hasn’t required the purchase of a bag of soil—except for seed-starting mix—in quite a while. We’ve been building our soil now for over two years, and much of it has already been through at least six to eight cycles—with

“Ninety-four percent of legal cardholders in Colorado cite severe pain as a factor in their decision to use medical marijuana.”



“Tons of product are out there, and it’s difficult to find the best. A lot of new patients just entering the medical market are unformed and uneducated.”

The garden of Natural Alternatives for Health is an immaculate example of healthy growing.

great results every time—simply by re-amending and allowing the soil time to cook and properly balance. Our soil-recycling method not only saves us time, labor and equipment costs, but also produces the healthiest plants capable of denser resin production, stronger aromatic qualities and, ultimately, superior quality organic medicine.”

Growing Pains

Leif of Mile High Green Cross puts the Colorado cannabis industry under the microscope.

‘Allow me to explain our five fear factors,” says Leif, co-owner at Mile High Green Cross. “Our patient demographic—our target market—is only two percent of the population. There are 260 dispensaries in Denver, twice as many as there are Starbucks. But there are only 150,000 patients. So you’ve got 260 dispensaries fighting over this very, very small pool of customers, this micro-demographic.

“Secondly, we’re witnessing a race to the bottom. Prices are being slashed; eighths are being sold for \$20. Apply simple economic rules to the operation of a 30,000-foot warehouse: If you’re targeting 150,000 patients and you’re trying to move 50 to 100 pounds per month, what quality of product are you producing? Connoisseur grades are more expensive, require more nutes and other additives. Our production costs are about \$2 per gram—but in big warehouses, it’s far less. But because they’re not getting any sales, prices are cut to \$25 across the board in a bid to get customers. But there’s no profit margin for a sustainable business. Also, tons of product are out there, and it’s difficult to find the best. A lot of new patients just entering the medical market are uninformed and uneducated.



“Next, we have the ‘double Cs’: corruption and collusion. A number of big players are on the [industry] subcommittee that is trying to work with the Department of Revenue. They’ve got big pockets and are influencing people—the decision-makers, the rule-makers.

“Plus a lot of large dispensaries are teaming up and suggesting things like no restrictions on powdery mildew. Why? They have warehouses of crap—if there are no restrictions on powdery mildew or things of that nature, they’ll partner up with another big company that holds an edibles license. That crop with powdery mildew could end up being cooked and sold in edible form.

“Fourth, we have ‘poison marriages.’ State regulations forced shotgun weddings between growers and dispensaries, but they’re two groups that really don’t know each other. If an upstanding group has partnered up with another party who’s moving stuff out the back door, you’re still bound to each other. So you’ve got combative relationships. And if a dispensary links up with a warehouse op that needs to cover huge monthly expenses—\$10,000 in rent, \$10,000 in utilities, \$5,000 in nutrients—financial difficulty is inevitable.

“Lastly, there’s the ‘F-bomb’: the federal government. The federal government’s tax code doesn’t allow for any business deductions. You can’t take a standard deduction on your utilities or labor—a 30 percent profit margin is eaten up by the Feds. Eventually, the federal government will wind up with a big windfall and the states will be hit, because they’re going to have to recognize a substantial loss for every one of these businesses. The state will essentially have to give big tax deductions back to the dispensaries, because the Feds will reap all the actual profit.” 🌿

April
21

This year, the Denver *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup will be held on April 21-22 at EXDO. Visit medcancup.com for details.



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Czech Your Head

As the Dutch government threatens to regulate Holland's coffeeshops out of existence, people are debating where Europe's next pot hotspot will be. High Times says: Go east, young man! To Eastern Europe, that is. With its lax marijuana laws, legal seeds and tolerant attitude, the Czech Republic is the new stoner sanctuary.

By Chris Simunek. Photos by Freebie



Prague—I'm sitting in the land that my ancestors called Bohemia, participating in a national ritual that has been occurring here since the days when the fashion statements were made in steel, leather and animal pelts. When I say "ritual," perhaps you imagine me genuflecting before some Christian deity—but no, that doesn't happen much here in the Czech Republic, which is generally regarded as the most atheistic country in Europe. The ritual that I'm speaking of, is the simple imbibing of the world's best beer, outdoors, in nature.

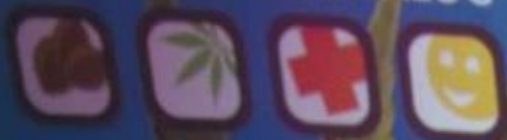
I've been accompanied here by Freebie, HIGH TIMES' pre-eminent cannabis photographer, and Robert Veverka, our friend/guide/translator and entrée

into all things cannabis in the Czech Republic. Robert runs *Legalizace*, the country's largest marijuana magazine, which, between its glossy pages, covers all aspects of pot culture here—art, politics, activism, cultivation, you name it. *Legalizace* is the first Czech pot magazine produced by Czechs for Czechs, and it has a circulation of 12,000 throughout the country (plus Slovakia and Austria).

Also with us is Lukas Behal, the organizer of Cannafest, a marijuana trade show that drew 17,000 attendees over three days last year at its inaugural event in the Industrial Palace, a historic 200-year-old national building in Prague.

Despite the public setting—Bar Mlikarna, a crowded beer garden in

PRODUKTOVÝ KATALOG





From left: Robert Veverka at the Legalizace headquarters; Cannabis seeds are legal in the Czech Republic and sold openly in grow shops.



Riegrovy Sady, a park in the center of the city—we have two open jars of herb on the table in front of us from which we've been liberally sampling. The first is a schwaggy batch of outdoor that does not impress, but the second—an unnamed variety that smells to me like a Blueberry variant—is kind enough to meet even Freebie's California standards.

Lukas is talking excitedly about his event. Already an accomplished trade-show organizer, last year he decided to combine his career with his passion for marijuana. "Before the show, we went to Spannabis [Europe's largest annual cannabis trade show, held in Spain] and introduced Cannafest to the public," he says. "Everyone was so happy that someone was organizing a show in the Czech Republic. We covered everything: growing, seed banks, natural resources, hemp, cosmetics, food, clothing, building materials and a section for NGOs [non-governmental organizations]. There were 25 seminars given by doctors, professors, patients, lawyers, politicians and activists from all over Europe. This year will be even bigger."

"Is it true that people are going to open Amsterdam-style coffeeshops in the Czech Republic?" I ask, referring to a rumor I've heard.

"I don't think so," Lukas answers. "Maybe in a few years, but not right now—it's too far from that. But we are happy with this," he adds, gesturing to our immediate surroundings. "You can smoke everywhere."

"Czech law decrees that a person with five living plants or 15 dried grams doesn't even have to lie to a cop about how or why they have it."

It makes perfect sense; after all, what is a coffeeshop but a cannabis-friendly ghetto? Sure, it's nice to be able to walk into a shop and choose between a dozen different varieties for sale, but isn't it better just to live in a society where sparking up a joint at your local bar is less awkward than ordering an O'Doul's?

Bohemian Rhapsody

My ancestors left the land of Bohemia sometime in the late 19th century, eventually settling in the German-Czech enclave of Yorkville in upper Manhattan and missing the hardships that would befall the territory in the century that followed. It was during those years, however, that the seeds of today's liberalism were planted, pressed into the dirt by jackboots and tank treads and fertilized with national blood.

After World War I, Bohemia was incorporated, along with Moravia and the Slavic territories, into a chimera state called Czechoslovakia. The country prospered in the era between the wars, but as Hitler set out to claim neighboring

Germanic lands for the Third Reich, Czechoslovakia was sold out to the Nazis by France, England and Italy, in the hopes of avoiding another protracted European war, via the Munich Agreement of 1938.

During the seven years of Nazi rule, 345,000 Czechoslovakians—80 percent of them Jews—were killed, and many more were sent to forced-labor and concentration camps. A week after Hitler's decision to eat a bullet in the Führerbunker, there was an uprising against the Waffen SS by Czech insurgents. Via radio, the resistance begged for US assistance, but an agreement with Stalin allowed the Soviets to liberate Prague. A coup d'état in 1948 put the Communists firmly in control of the country, ushering in an era of Soviet-style totalitarianism, crushing free speech and political dissent.

After the Prague Spring of 1968, as the country was trying to steer in the general direction of democracy, Czechoslovakia was invaded on Leonid Brezhnev's orders by 200,000 Warsaw Pact troops and 2,000 Soviet tanks and would remain behind the Iron Curtain for the next two decades. As the Soviet Empire finally imploded in the late '80s, the Czechs reclaimed their dignity with the 1989 Velvet Revolution, electing poet and political prisoner Vaclav Havel as president. The Czech Republic can now claim a designation as the fifth "most peaceful country" in the world, according to the Global Peace Index.

Perhaps it's the result of living under



Clockwise, from top: Karel examines a feeding chart; Karel demonstrates his CO2 delivery system; Plants are grown in dirt and fed hydroponically.

totalitarian rule for so long, but modern Czech society is wary of anything that smells of authoritarianism, and the drug laws regarding personal use here are lenient. Forty psilocybin caps, four tabs of Ecstasy, five hits of LSD, a gram of coke, a gram and a half of heroin, two grams of crystal meth, and all you're looking at is a fine. As for herb, Czech law decrees that a person with five living plants or 15 dried grams doesn't even have to lie to a cop about how or why they have it; they can just look the officer in the eye and say, "This marijuana is mine."

I shared a joint with M. at the Cross Club, a three-story nightclub where the infrastructure was made entirely of welded scrap metal—dark alcoves and crisscrossing stairways formed from pipes, engine parts and hubcaps, as though M.C. Escher and H.R. Giger had a welded-steel brain baby. Fourteen years ago, M. opened the very first grow shop in Eastern Europe, and now it's part of growshop.cz, a nexus of 17 stores spread across the Czech Republic. M.'s inspiration back then was the simple fact that Czech cannabis at the time—mostly homegrown outdoor and cheap hash from India—sucked.

"It's changing now," he said. "Ten years ago, we started selling seeds for six

months and had to stop. We imported Master Kush and Mazar from Dutch Passion. Then I brought from Switzerland cuttings of Peacemaker that I smuggled in my shoes. It had a nice smell, short flowering time, big yield. The most popular ones now are White Russian, Jack Herer and maybe Northern Lights."

Following the explosion of cannabis use in the Czech Republic, there was a natural progression from the home grower to the entrepreneur. This hasn't gone entirely unnoticed by Czech law enforcement, and recently a chain of grow shops was busted in a large conspiracy case in which the shops were accused of working with their customers to produce and sell. There were undercover agents, wiretaps, the whole bit, and it sent a chill through the grow-shop industry here.

"It's stupid," M. said. "You could be in trouble [growing commercially]. In Czech

law system, you don't have precedents, so two same crimes going to two different judges, different courts, one is innocent, one gets the death penalty ... it's a joke."

I asked him if he had an opinion as to why the Czech Republic was such a liberal country.

"I think it's because of the atheism," M. replied. "The Christian Party

[officially, the Christian and Democratic Union] is in the minority because of the history: There was the Catholics and the Protestants fighting people, and then we were under Germany and they suppress our religion, and then the Communists were against the religion."

"But so much of this city is devoted to religion," I mused. "All the beautiful cathedrals, all the statues of saints ..."

"Yeah, nice building, it's okay," M. shrugged. "You have the left-wing party and the right-wing party, and then in the middle there are the fucking Christians, so they are like a bitch to sell, you know what I mean? They are prostitutes."

Denizens of the Dark

So Freebie, Robert and I now find ourselves on an empty cobblestone street in an industrial neighborhood on the outskirts of Prague, walking lost between dark buildings with statues of crumbling saints peering out from their edifices—canonized but forgotten figures who seem to track our movements as we try to beat the fading daylight to our destination, which is, of all things, a country-and-western bar. I assume this must be the only C&W bar in the city, but Robert tells me that I'm very wrong, that in fact such places are popular and there are many here. Problem is, he doesn't seem to remember where this one is.

As the darkness descends, I'm feeling more haunted than nervous, since Prague is more menacing in its design



Czech-List

Cannafest 2011: Eastern Europe's biggest marijuana convention; November 25th-27th (en.cannafest.cz)

Legalizace: Czech Republic's premier cannabis magazine (legalizace.cz)

Konopi je lek: Medical marijuana clinic in Prague (konopijelek.eu)

Growshop: Find seeds and grow equipment in the Czech Republic (growshop.cz)

than it is in its intent. Walking through the meandering gothic streets at night is a bit like entering an old-world fairy tale—the kind where curious children strike out in search of a house built from candy, only to get eaten by ogres once they find it.

We spot two figures heading toward us: a skinny little pimp in a black leather jacket and a bleach-blonde hooker holding a wilted bouquet of carnations, who is having a tough time navigating the cobblestones in her heels. Robert approaches them to ask if they can tell us where the bar is.

“Why do you want to know?” the pimp spits back, yanking the girl away, causing a few dying white petals to fall from their stigmas and float to the ground.

As we walk on, I hear a familiar melody coming from around the corner that I recognize as Willie Nelson’s “On the Road Again,” only the words are different—strange—until I get close enough to realize they’re being sung in Czech. Inside, there’s a live band seated in the back, throwing down a shit-kick that is inspiring a small bunch of drunks to cut a rug that owes as much to a mosh pit as it does to a line dance.

“We are here,” Robert announces.

We’ve come to meet Karel Bukvice, a husky, boisterous man with wild, woolly hair that springs feral from his skull. He’s happy to meet us, but doesn’t speak much English. Karel is the proprietor of an indoor grow nearby that we can visit. When Freebie and I pass around a few copies of HT, he explains warily that his room isn’t quite on the same level.

“It’s a punk-rock garden!” he laughs.

I explain that I’m Czech on my father’s side, pulling out my driver’s license and pointing to my Bohemian surname. It’s an immediate hit. Suddenly, a beer appears in my hand, and Karel and his friends are hailing my ancestors and me and doing us the great favor of finally explaining how to correctly pronounce my last name.

“Sheemooneck! Czech! Yes!”

The band kicks into “Folsom Prison Blues” and the place goes nuts. Karel grabs me by the neck and, in broken English, explains: “Only America and Czech Republic understand country-and-western music!” It’s one of those small facts of life that you didn’t know before, but now that you do, makes you feel privy to something special.

On the way to his apartment, we stop at a deli and load up on some giant plastic bottles of brown beer, the Czech



At *Konopi Je Lek*, cannabis is bred to maximize therapeutic cannabinoids like CBD and CBN.

Then Karel insists that the two of us shotgun some hits off the joint—which, the way they do it here, is just a hair away from French-kissing.

version of a forty. Once inside his place, I learn that Karel isn’t just a C&W-loving grower, but an accomplished painter and documentary filmmaker to boot. His walls are lined with large, primal, primary-colored oil paintings, impressionistic but primitive, like a Vulcan mind meld between Chagall and Basquiat.

The lights are on in the garden, where he has 80 plants growing in dirt under three 1,000-watt high-pressure sodiums and being fed via PVC tubes and drip emitters. Freebie is happy because Karel is using Easy Grow Diamond Foil around his garden, a roll-up reflective surface produced in England by Freebie’s pal Simon, who will soon be arriving in Prague to join us for the last leg of our tour.

Regarding the variety, Karel explains that clones are not so easy to come by in Prague, so he had to take what he could get—in this case K-49, a *sativa*-dominant hybrid. When I point to an ancient Soviet-era fire extinguisher standing three feet tall, Karel lights up.

“CO₂!” he howls, and then proceeds to show us his homemade delivery system. Freebie kneels with his camera at the ready. Grabbing the handle

of the extinguisher, Karel turns to me and declares, “It’s a punk-rock garden!” before letting loose a billowing cloud of vapor into an oscillating fan that disperses it over the canopy. With that, Karel rushes us out of the room so that we won’t all drop from oxygen deprivation.

We smoke a few joints and pass around the plastic bottles of brown beer, which taste a lot better than I thought they would. (No such thing as a bad beer in Prague.) Then Karel insists that the two of us shotgun some hits off the joint—which, the way they do it here, is just a hair away from French-kissing. I figure fuck it, we all have to pay the ferryman at some point, and Karel blows a heavy cloud of pot smoke into my mouth—but when he turns to Freebie and tells him that it’s his turn next, Freebie decides that it’s time to go. So we say our good-byes and head back into the gothic night, hoping that no ogres stand between us and a well-earned greasy street sausage.

A Doctor in the House

Another day, another gutful of wild elk. Vegetarians should do some research before visiting Prague, a town where a pig’s knuckle on a bed of sliced cucumber passes for salad. Every week is shark week here, or its terrestrial equivalent: a bloodfest the sight of which would cause Sarah McLachlan to write some very sad songs. As for all those cartoon characters I grew up with—Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, Bullwinkle? In Prague, their descendants are roasted over open fires in an amount and frequency that would cause Elmer Fudd to beat his musket into a ploughshare.

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Freebie and I are staying in Wenceslas Square, named for King Wenceslas, patron saint of the Czech people, who in the year 935 died a martyr's death at the hands of his half-brother, Boleslav the Cruel. That same day, a son was born to Boleslav, the baby Strachkvas, whose name translates as "dreadful feast."

So Freebie and I were pretty surprised to meet King Wenceslas as he stood outside a restaurant dressed in armor, his long, brown hair flowing from beneath a steel helmet as he used his sword to hustle tourists into the establishment for a (hopefully) non-dreadful meal. We showed him a copy of HIGH TIMES and asked if we could take a picture of him smoking a joint, but he demurred, citing restaurant policy. His true passion was music—"melodic death metal"—and he asked us to mention his band, Secret of Darkness, so now I have. As a Czech—even a spastic four-generations-removed one such as myself—it's an honor to serve my king.

Today, Robert had arranged for us to visit the Czech Republic's only medical marijuana facility. The guy has a seductive cheer that I would follow right off a cliff. In our discussions, he told Freebie and me how he'd hitchhiked from San Francisco through Mexico and down to Costa Rica one summer. When I asked him if he'd ever been to New York, he told me he'd spent three weeks there sleeping in the Port Authority bus terminal because the youth hostel was too expensive.

We convened at our usual meeting spot "beneath the horse's ass," which, for you laymen, means in the square at the rear of the statue depicting King Wenceslas mounted on his steed.

In the suburb of Kutna Hora, there is a church containing the remains of between 40,000 and 70,000 people.

Bones were turned into altars, wall pieces, chandeliers and coats-of-arms, as though Ed Gein had been hired as the interior designer.

Robert, Freebie and I walked over to the offices of Konopi Je Lek (Cannabis Is a Medicine), an "educational cannabis clinic" founded by Dusan Dvorak, a psychotherapist specializing in addiction treatment, who has devoted his life to the healing powers of marijuana.

The Czechs were way out in front with the theory that cannabis can be used to cure and prevent illness. In late 1954, three Czech university professors—J. Kabelik, Z. Krejci and F. Santavy—produced "Cannabis as a Medicine," a study which concluded that cannabis extracts had an antibacterial effect on numerous microbes, including staphylococcus and streptococcus.

At Konopi Je Lek, I was introduced to a therapist named Jan, an American medical marijuana refugee from Florida. We retreated to the office area, at the back of which was a small growroom that the clinic uses in its studies.

Jan was both a therapist and a patient who suffered from a psychological disorder. "I'm supposed to take three types of meds, but I don't because I take cannabis," she explained. "So I've been trying to breed out something that has high

levels of CBD, because the CBD is what keeps the psychosis at bay ... so to speak."

She described the clinic's efforts to treat cancer, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, leukemia, addiction and other ailments. There was talk of how cancer must first be treated by discovering the roots of the disease in the mind, and how Rick Simpson's theories of using cannabis to treat cancer are just the beginning; at the clinic, they were researching exact, strain-dependent therapeutic dosages of THC, CBD and CBN.

Dusan entered the room and listened to our discussion. Since 2008, he's been attempting to get government permission to plant large fields of cannabis for research purposes, but every time he starts a garden and invites the relevant authorities to check it out and listen to his rap, they respond by hauling his plants away. I asked him what the mission was at Konopi Je Lek.

"We are here to gain information, express information, and educate people in the field of cannabis—the practical aspects of it and the so-called theoretical aspects of it. We have the opportunity to test large amounts of cannabis; we have clinical responses from patients."

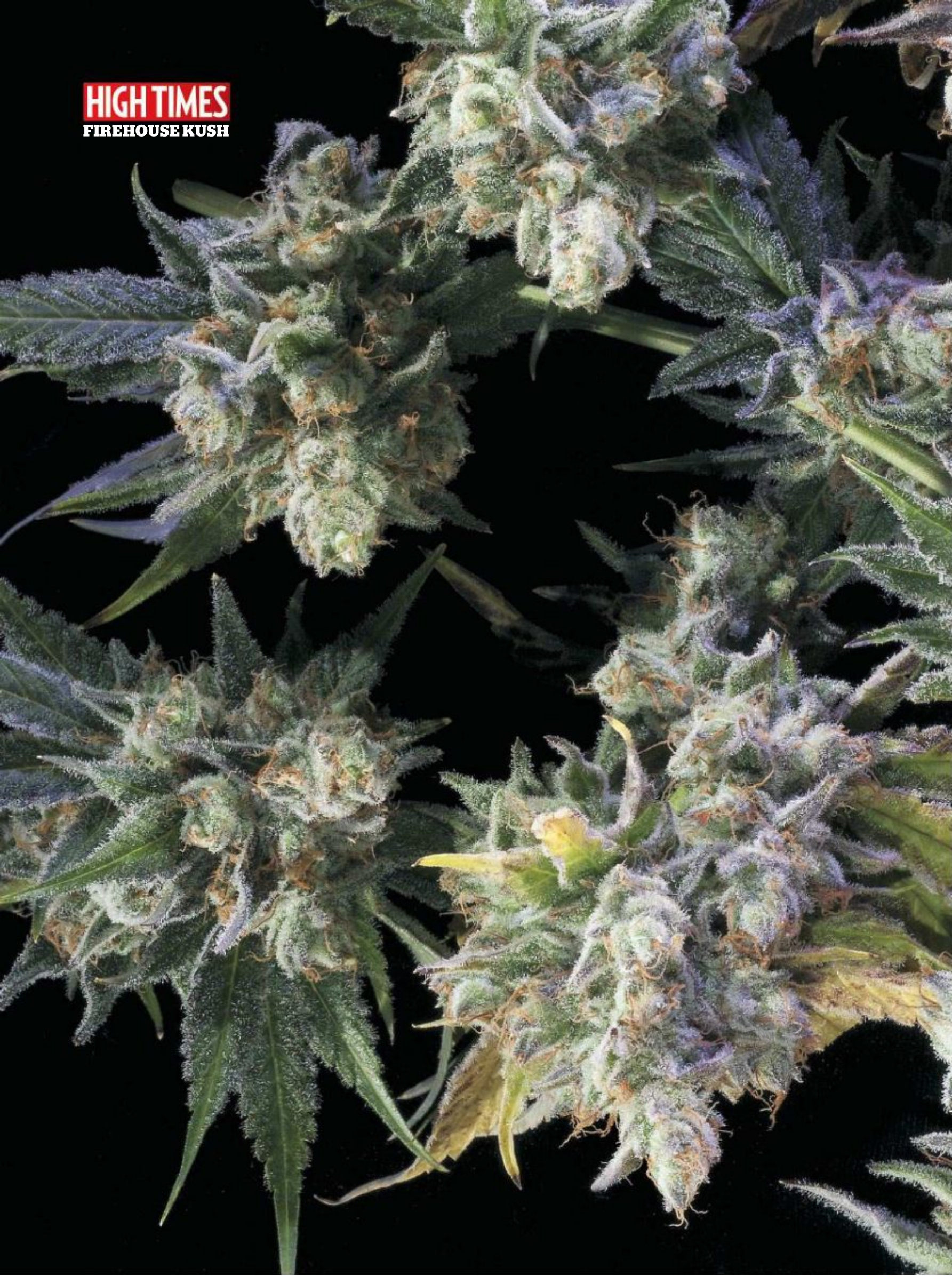
As we talked, Dusan smoked a cigarette, and I thought he looked a bit like Tim Leary. He had that same smile of a man who, despite his detractors, has a vision that's been unfolding according to plan.

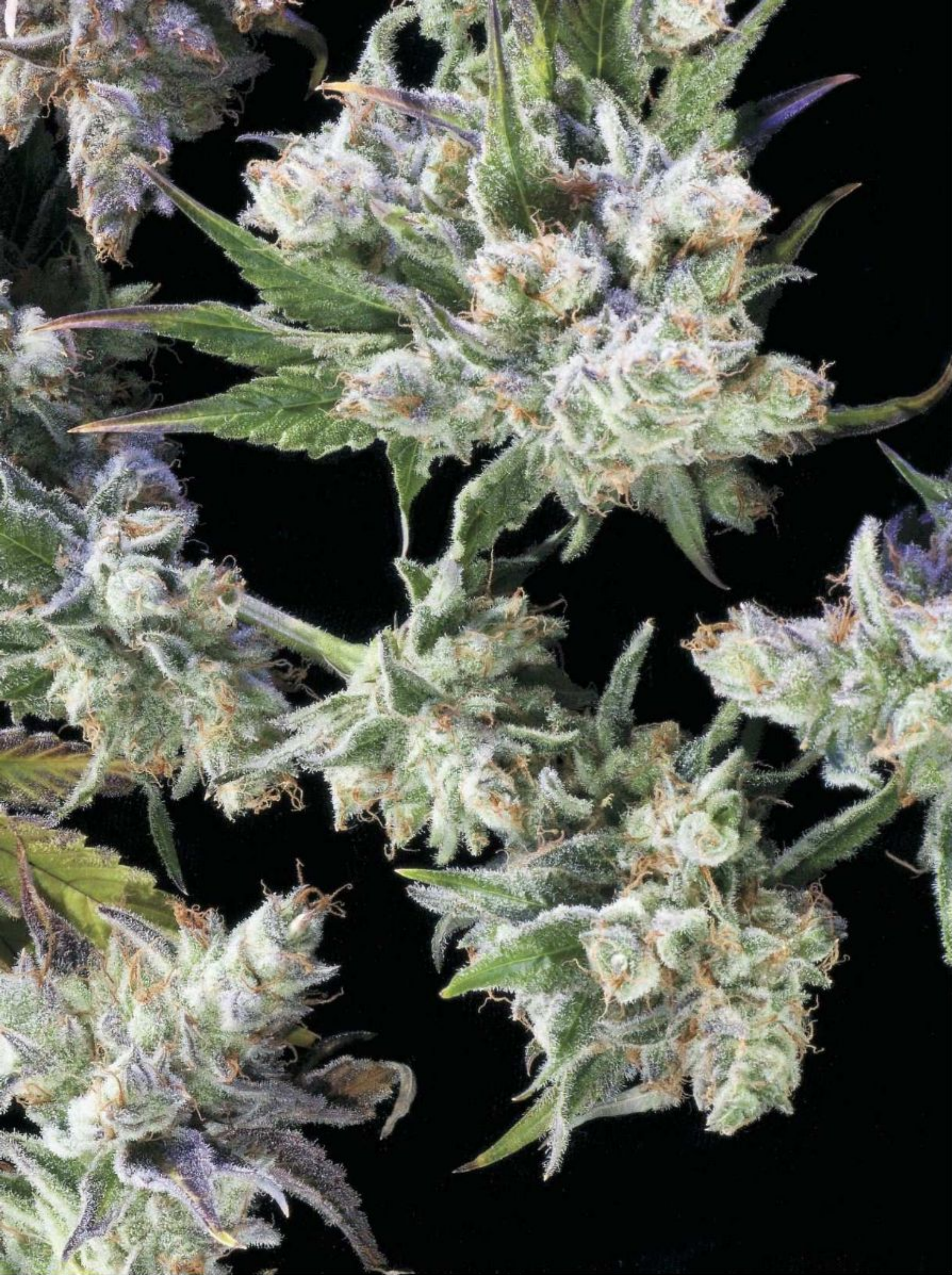
Stoned to the Bone

So Freebie's friend Simon, of the Easy Grow Diamond Foil miracle wrap, arrived from England, and the three of us caught a train to the suburb of Kutna Hora, 70 kilometers west of Prague, which is home to both Philip Morris' Eastern European headquarters and the Sedlec Ossuary, a Roman Catholic chapel also known as the "bone church" because it's decorated with the mortal remains of somewhere between 40,000 and 70,000 people who died during the Black Death (1348-1350) and the Hussite Wars (1419-1434). It started out as a cemetery, but the cemetery was exhumed to make way for the church, and the bones were turned into altars, wall pieces, chandeliers and coats-of-arms, as though Ed Gein had been hired as the interior designer. Perhaps the idea was to demystify death; I don't know.

The first order of business was to get good and high, so we killed some more of that Blueberryish bud that Robert had given us when we arrived, then bought

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our tickets and strapped ourselves in for the ride.

The whole time we were traveling to this place, I kept thinking that, despite everything I'd read, we would get there and it would prove to be some kind of farce. But no, we were definitely surrounded by the artistically arranged skeletal remains of tens of thousands of human beings unfortunate enough to die from the "It" disease of their day, or to be slain in a religious war between two factions that disagreed as to who was the rightful inheritor of the sacred and lucrative commission to propagate Jesus' legacy.

Their skinless faces stared at me from empty eye sockets, reaching across the millennia, grinning with lipless skull-smiles as if to say, "Enjoy it while it lasts, tomorrow you could be me."

Walking back to the train station, we spotted a bar with an outdoor garden and a fire pit where the better part of what had once been a pig twisted slowly on the spit, hissing and crackling as its charred flesh spewed smoke down the block.

The place was full, but there were three spots open at a picnic bench occupied by a few college-age locals. We asked the group if the seats were taken and, in response, got a bunch of mute stares, shrugged shoulders and, finally, a few mumbled words in Czech that I imagined translated as "Yankee, go home."

We ordered a round of beer and meat. Our reluctant neighbors looked over in our direction periodically, whispering words and then laughing out loud at the depth of their wit.

"I don't like this," Simon the Englishman scowled. "I think they're taking the piss."

"What do you care about those guys?" I asked. "Enjoy your pig."

The snickers from our flank kept coming, though. After a while, one of the guys from the rival crew turned to us, muttered a few words and reached for something in his pocket. Freebie and Simon both looked at me, and I could see the fight-or-flight debate being waged in their adrenal glands. I looked back at our nemesis to find that he was holding a plastic bag—and from that bag, I watched him remove an inch-long marijuana bud.

"Do you guys smoke?" he asked with a stoner smile.

In response, we pulled out our own bud and I passed them my HIGH TIMES card (the one with the big pot leaf on



In the foreground of this picture you can see one of this backyard grower's Amnesia Haze plants.

"I looked back at our nemesis to find that he was holding a plastic bag—and from the bag, I watched him remove an inch-long marijuana bud."

it), and suddenly the young man next to us was smiling and speaking reasonably fluent English.

"I'm sorry," he laughed, telling us his name was Michal. "We were fooling with you before"

"No worries," I assured him. "I hate tourists, too."

"You work for a magazine?"

"We're journalists. You don't, by chance, know anyone around here who grows marijuana?"

"Someone who grows marijuana?" Michal's eyebrows arched toward his forehead in contemplation. "Yes, I know of a garden. It is about five minutes away from here."

Simon began whispering that the whole thing was a setup. I assured him that these guys were just a bunch of college kids getting a buzz on a Saturday afternoon, but he was insistent. Paranoia being the contagion that it is, I started looking at Michal as though he were not the friendly pothead he appeared to be, but rather a master criminal who, along

with his gang, lulled American tourists into complacency, brought them to an undisclosed place with the promise of marijuana gardens, and then tortured them over the three days it took to drain their bank accounts at the local ATM. It also didn't help that I had just spent the last two hours staring at altars constructed from human remains. Was this kid an apprentice in some Eastern European crime syndicate? And if this was a kidnapping, would they be satisfied with the free copy of Nico Escondido's *Grow Like a Pro* DVD and the one-year comp subscription that would be HIGH TIMES' final offer for my release?

I suggested that Simon stay at the bar if he was so worried, that Freebie and I would go it alone.

"I can't leave you guys like that," Simon declared, upending the last of his Pilsner Urquell. "Whatever happens, we're in it together."

We followed our newfound friends through a neighborhood of modest homes, and without a trail of breadcrumbs to leave behind, I tried to remember the path, in case our journey to this fabled House of Weed led instead to an ogre's cauldron.

At our destination, we were led through a living room out to a backyard where there were indeed some buds growing amongst the other vegetables. Our hosts were proud of their efforts, about a dozen or so Amnesia Haze plants in the early flowering stage. They rolled a few joints, cracked a bottle of Czech champagne and brought out a bowl of sweet red cherries that they'd just picked. Simon looked slightly relieved, but he wasn't exactly digging into the offered refreshments lest they be laced with some sort of knockout drug.

It was a nice coup for me and Freebie. Not for the first time, we'd been invited by people to whom we were basically strangers to see what exactly was growing here in the Czech Republic. After all the years I've spent writing about this plant, I am always grateful and a little amazed at the doors it opens, as though the passing of a joint were a secret handshake that transcends language, politics and geography. It was especially pleasing to me—the first of my bloodline to make the trip back to our ancestral homeland—and I was grateful to Robert and Lukas and M. and Karel and Jan and Dusan and Michal's whole crew for welcoming back a long-lost Bohemian son, offering him smoke, drink and swine, and inviting him to feel at home. ✨



Growing 'On the Grid' for Bigger Yields

Canadian medical marijuana growers have discovered a key way to increase harvests and maximize each plant's potential to produce pot planting density. *Story & photos by Erik Biksa*

Why Are My Yields Low?

Medical growers who have worked hard to create and maintain the perfect grow environment sometimes end up with disappointing harvests for their efforts, even when working with a strain that's considered a good yielder.

Here's an example of one such seemingly perfect room:

- ▶ The temperature when the lights are on doesn't exceed 85°F.
- ▶ Humidity levels are between 40% and 60% RH (relative humidity).

- ▶ Adequate carbon dioxide (CO₂) is available for plant growth.
- ▶ There's a 600-watt or 1,000-watt grow light for every square meter (or 4' x 4' area).
- ▶ The air is circulated throughout the room by fans.
- ▶ All of the basic needs of plants are met, and they even receive engineered feedings.
- ▶ The plants are harvested fully mature—for example, after a full eight weeks for an eight-week strain.

Let's assume that all of the other requirements are being met as well: There

are careful sanitation practices and no interruptions of the dark cycle during flowering, the water is of good quality, pests and diseases have been scrupulously avoided, etc.

Still, after eight weeks of flowering, the yield is less than 1 pound per 1,000-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) light. How can this be? After all, other growers are pulling in 1.5 or even 2 pounds of bud per 1,000-watt light growing the same strain in similar setups.

Growers spend a lot of time and money fussing over these details in the hopes of being rewarded with a high-yielding crop of medical buds for their



The author inspects a finishing bud.

efforts and dedication. So what's the all-too-common culprit in the growroom that can rob you of those yields?

Get Dense

There's a good chance it involves density. That's right, planting density. Commercial-crop producers have long realized the importance of achieving the right number of shoots in a given space for a particular plant variety to maximize its quality and yield at harvest. When there's too great a density (i.e., too many plants sharing the same space), it will lead to poor crop quality and even disease and insect infestations; conversely, too skinny a stand of plants in a given space—especially under artificial lights—is going to yield lightly, creating a waste of resources relative to the return. So it becomes clear that you need to have just the right amount of plant material in that space being strongly illuminated by your grow lights to result in good yields at harvest time.

For indoor cannabis cultivators, this can be a little more complicated than it was for their field-producing predecessors. That's because, growing indoors, you control how long your “spring,” “summer” and “fall” are going to be; outdoors, nature decides that for you, so you can only expect your plants to grow so much in any given season or phase of their life cycle.

Indoors, however, you set the stage for how much stature your plants will gain before you flip them to budding. This means that you decide how many plants are going to fill a certain sized area under the grow lights, either for optimal performance or to abide by plant-number limits as per your local or state provisions for cultivating medical marijuana.

With fewer plants per light, the chances are good that you'll have to veg your plants longer to create the right amount of biomass for a good yield. Conversely, you can shorten the time it takes to grow a crop from start to finish by maintaining higher numbers of plants per light and spending less time in the vegetative-growth stage. That's because the space can get filled quicker simply by increasing the number of plants.

Branching Out

What master growers have come to realize through trial and error, failure and success, is that regardless of whether you use one giant plant or 36 smaller plants to fill the same space, a lot of your yield per light



will have to do with creating the optimal number of branches receiving intense light in that particular space. (And this is true no matter how you accomplish that magic number.) Also, the right density for the best yield will vary from strain to strain and also with different growing methods (i.e., hydroponics versus soil-grown).

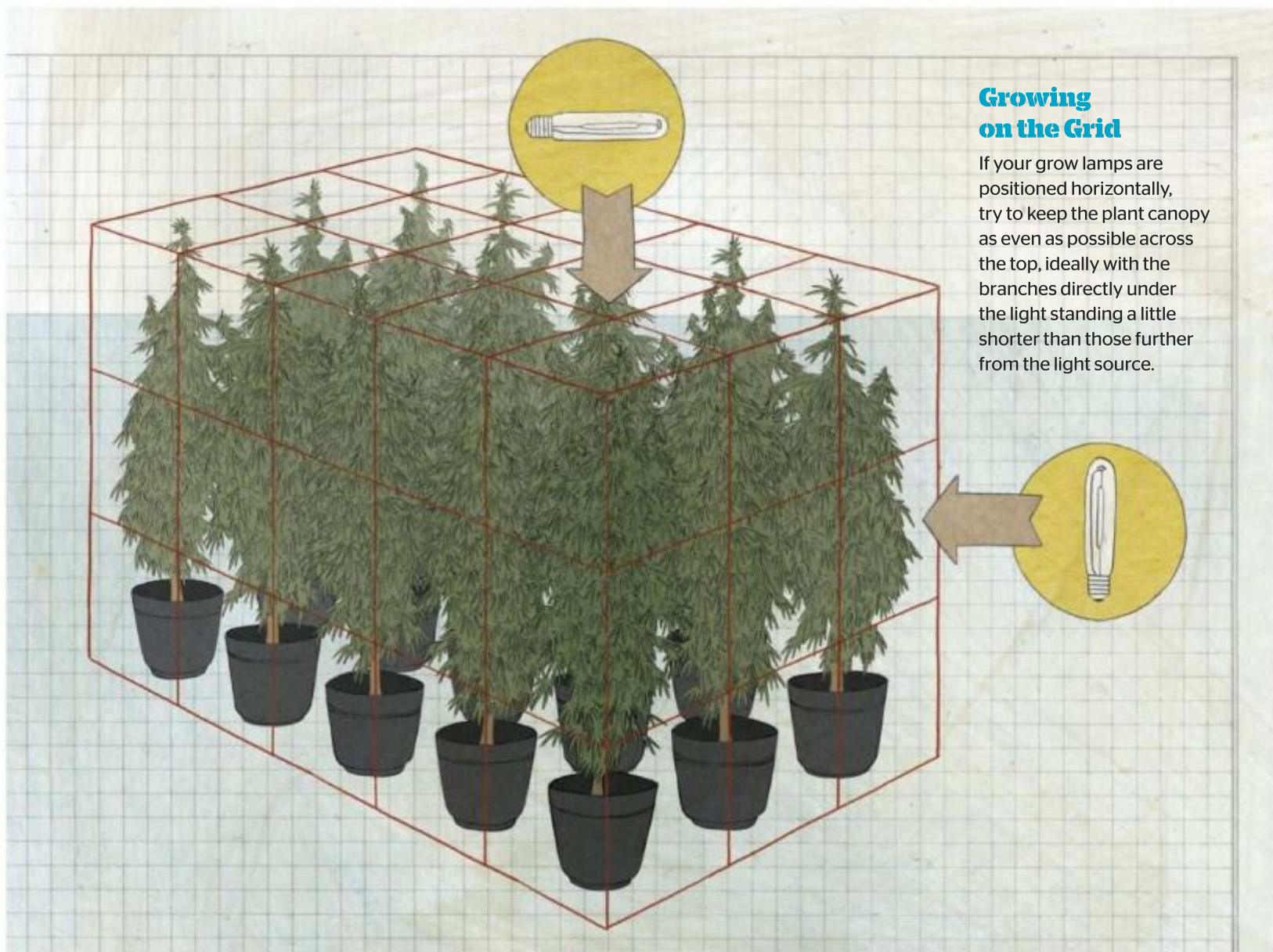
You can start by visualizing the space under your grow light as a matrix. Look at it as a flat grid if you want to grow larger numbers of plants that finish quicker, or as a cubed grid if you plan to grow fewer but larger plants in the same space. Using mesh trellising to support heavy buds, of the type seen in “screen of green” (ScrOG) setups, is not only a practical way to support your plants, but it's also great for getting into the swing of growing “on the grid,” so to speak, because you'll be physically creating a grid for the plant canopy.

Let's say you're growing with a 1,000-watt HPS light. Of course, it depends on how you hang the lamp and what type of reflector you use, but, on average, experience dictates that you'll have an area of 1 square meter (4' x 4') illuminated intensely by the light that can offer you consistent yields of dense, tight and potentially heavyweight buds. With a grid in mind, we can now picture the square footage under the light: 16 even 1-foot squares that need to be filled with the right number of budding sites to give us the potential for the best yields from our medical cannabis crops.

Precisely what this number of budding sites within the squares will be has a lot to do with the genetics you've selected to grow and, to some extent, the growing conditions you've created and can maintain consistently. If you can keep your growroom a few percentage points drier in terms of relative humidity, you can sometimes hit higher planting densities without running into any problems. In more humid environments, higher planting densities will result in plants that are stifled by water vapor hanging around crowded leaves, leading to poor growth rates and potential disease.

If you boost the CO₂ level in your growroom, this will speed up the growth rates and make individual buds yield heavier—provided they receive optimal levels of other important inputs such

From top: Bulbs hang vertically among the growing tops; proper spacing of plants increases overall yields; keep wiring, fans, ballasts and other equipment out of your way.



Growing on the Grid

If your grow lamps are positioned horizontally, try to keep the plant canopy as even as possible across the top, ideally with the branches directly under the light standing a little shorter than those further from the light source.

as light, water and nutrients. So if you garden with CO₂ your strain may appreciate having a little extra space around the individual buds, rewarding you with heavier and denser nugs.

Avoid Overcrowding

Usually, growers who haven't fine-tuned their planting densities fall short in their efforts, not realizing enough potential budding sites in the plant canopy to give them good, high-quality yields. However, as mentioned, it's also possible to overshoot your target and develop too dense a canopy, creating crowded, jungle-like conditions that end up stifling yields. (Also, whenever you're working with higher densities, you must always be on guard for signs of pests and diseases.)

At the same time, as you learn to control and optimize the right planting density for your strain, keep in mind that it's often easier and more productive to border on overcrowding than to not have enough. That's because, during the second week of flowering, you can selectively prune the canopy, viewing all

of those branches as a single biomass rather than as parts of the various plants they're connected to underneath. Successful cannabis growers always picture their crop as a whole that's greater than the sum of its parts—unless, of course, your goal is to have the handsomest individual plants rather than the biggest possible yield per light.

If your grow lamps are positioned horizontally, try to keep the plant canopy as even as possible across the top, ideally with the branches directly under the light standing a little shorter than those further from the light source, in order to promote the best light intensity reaching all parts of the canopy. Avoid creating light-hogging branches that shade the rest of the garden—it's not worth it to create one really nice nug at the expense of all the others in the space beneath your light.

Lighting for Optimal Growth

When growing with vertically oriented lights, the object is to broadside the plants with illumination. Once again, view the

profiles of your plants as a single garden profile and train their branches as a canopy rather than as individual limbs. When growing "super plants" like some of the monster Tuna Kush buds pictured in this article, you may have as few as one plant per 1,000-watt lamp—perhaps even less once you factor in cross-lighting in a multiple vertical-lamp setup. For example, some of the Tuna Kush plants pictured here not only receive 100 percent of the light from one of the 1,000-watt lamps per plant in this garden, but as much as 50 percent from another—and the yields correspond accordingly.

Grow big or go home? Growers will continue to debate which is better: high-density "sea of green" (SOG) setups or fewer, larger specimens, as with the so-called super-plant methods. Each has its advantages, with SOG allowing a higher number of harvests per cropping calendar and super plants offering easier management and astonishing yields per plant. However, what does remain constant across the two styles is that, in order to achieve the yields you desire, the crop will need the right framework

to build those heavy yields on—and that means having the right number of branches and budding sites in the grid beneath your grow lights.

Do the Math

If you're looking for a benchmark or starting point in developing and determining the right biomass density for your strain per light, a good rule of thumb is to have at least four sturdy, well-developed branches receiving intense light per square foot of growing space beneath each light, whether that's on a horizontal or vertical plane (i.e., depending on your lamp orientation). This means that, in an average 4' x 4' well-lit area, your cannabis plants should have a canopy consisting of about 64 main branches (4' x 4' = 16 square feet x four branches each = 64 branches).

Some strains, such as the ones mentioned that like to do a lot of side branching, may benefit from significantly higher planting densities—for example, up to nine branches per square foot, giving you a total of 144 branches per 4' x 4' grid.

Growing and pruning to achieve a certain number of branches is easier to accomplish in horizontally oriented



With maximized lighting and spacing, all gardens will produce higher yields.

garden setups. When growing larger specimens using vertically oriented lighting, it can be a little more challenging. Naturally, significantly more vegetative growth time will be required; however,

it's still less than you might imagine, because big plants with lots of space tend to be very healthy and therefore can fill out exponentially once their growth rates really take off. Keeping internodes tight and plant growth bushy is always advantageous; however, it's especially so when growing larger super plants that receive light from the sides rather than above. High-quality kelp extracts, such as those found in Nirvana or B-52, deliver naturally occurring plant-growth hormones called cytokinins that promote very tight and bushy growth traits—just what the doctor ordered for gaining a higher density of healthy branches per foot of vertical growth in your high-yielding super plants.

As many medical growers have learned, the yield that they achieve at the end of their cropping journey is a strong reflection of the framework they established early in the grow cycle by selecting the right number of plants per light and ensuring that an optimal number of branches and potential budding sites were created well before the plants were forced into bloom. From that point on, all the crop needs to do is to perfectly fill out the space that has been carefully calculated and provided in advance. ✨

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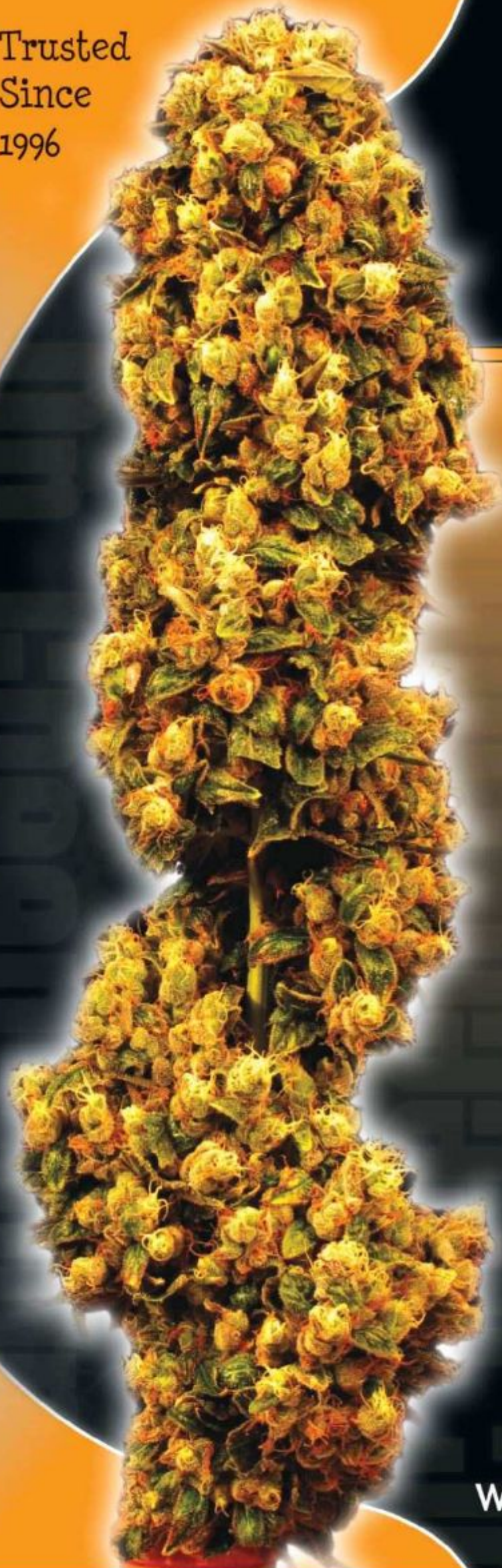
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COOLEST GROW GADGETS UNDER



(And Why You Can't Live Without Them)

Sure, there are plenty of badass grow gadgets out there, but how many of them are both high in quality and easy on the wallet? The *High Times* Cultivation Department set out to see just what the market was like these days for inexpensive yet productive grow gear. And wouldn't you know it—some of what we found is pretty damn cool!

Photos By Steve Zitelli

1. **2' x 1' Complete Propagation & Cloning Kit**

To Get It Started Right

Who says you need an entire nursery room to make clones and populate your garden? It couldn't be easier (or the space required any smaller) when using this compact all-in-one propagation kit, which combines Super Plugs' organic starter plugs (72-count, with propagation tray and insert), a tall propagation dome, a 2-foot high-output T5 fluorescent light and a customizable light stand (which can hold up to two T5 strip lights).

\$65, hydrowholesale.com, 866-803-2100

► **Super Plugs' 72-Count Organic Starter Plugs (\$20):**

These are biodegradable starter plugs composed of organic materials that produce beneficial microbes to colonize the root zone for healthy seedlings and clones.

► **T5 Fluorescent Lamp (\$23):**

This 2-foot T5 fixture (and bulb) comes complete with power cord, on/off switch and a 4-inch jump cord. Great for propagating seedlings or clones, the bulb gives off 2,000 lumens of 6,500°K spectrum.

► **L-Stand (\$20):** Use the tall side of the L-stand for a tall dome (6 inches), or turn it on its short side for use with a shorter propagation dome (3 inches).

► **Tall Humi-Dome (\$7):**

Use clear plastic domes with standard flat trays to keep humidity high for new clones or seedlings. This 6-inch-tall dome is perfect for larger cuttings.

2. **Propagation Heat Mat**

Makes Popping Seeds and Cloning Super-Easy

Environment and temperature are crucial when starting new plants. Seedlings and clones both require a high level of humidity and warmer-than-usual temps to generate those all-important healthy root structures.

The Seedling Heat Mat will warm the root zone by 10°F to 20°F above room temperature. Used in conjunction with

starter trays, a humi-dome and soft fluorescent lights, these mats boost root production and accelerate plant growth. They're also excellent for use in seed germination and plug into all standard 120-volt outlets.

\$25, hydrowholesale.com

3. **GrowOp Flores 1,000-Watt HPS Bulb**

The Cornerstone of Indoor Ops

Normally, we wouldn't include a basic high-pressure sodium (HPS) bulb in our lineup of nifty grow gadgets, but considering this one sells for a record-breaking \$42, we felt that we had to include it. HPS bulbs give growers a flowering season 365 days per year—and since they reach nearly \$200 in some places, this one's a real bargain for any indoor grower. Also, GrowOp lamps help to fine-tune lighting systems by providing enhanced spectral-energy levels to promote vigorous plant growth, as well as up to 15% more light energy than other HPS lamps.

\$42, growopitd.com, 855-447-6967

4. **Pocket-Sized Digital pH Meter**

Don't Go Home Without It

Take the guesswork out of figuring the pH level of your nutrient solution through the use of a digital dipstick meter.

Made by the trusted horticulture company Hanna Instruments, the Checker supplies you with fast and accurate readings from 0.00 to 14.00 pH, with a resolution of 0.01 pH. The super-compact tester features a large, easy-to-read LCD screen and a simple two-point calibration process. Testing pH has never been easier!

\$39.99, hidhut.com, 866-803-2100

5. **Digital All-In-One Atmosphere Monitor**

Your Very Own Weather Station

This wall-mounted digital display with a very large LCD screen makes it a snap to get a read on your garden with one quick glance. Not only



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does it measure temperature (with a thermometer in both the Celsius and Fahrenheit scales), it also serves as a hygrometer for reading humidity and remembers the highest and lowest points of each. It will even give you the time (in 12- or 24-hour formats).

Perfect for hanging outside a growroom or greenhouse so that you don't have to disturb your plants during the night cycle, this multifaceted monitor features a specialized sensor attached to a 10-foot cord that allows for remote readouts of your garden's environment—all with just one AAA battery (included!).

\$18, thehydrosource.com, 626-915-3128

6. The RF Bug Detector

Keep the Heat Off and Stay Safe

No, we're not talking about the kind of bugs you find munching on your plants—more like the kind that can be hidden in a lamp or ceiling. This detector will pick up hidden cameras, audio bugs, transmitting or live cell phones, Wi-Fi or any other wireless transmitter operating in the 1 megahertz to 6 gigahertz range. The detector has a maximum distance of 32 feet and comes loaded with features such as a low-battery indicator, earphones, sensitivity button and two operation modes (alarm or vibration). The small (approximately 4' x 2' x 5'), lightweight unit runs on two AAA batteries (not included). You ain't going down like that, are you? Hell, no!

\$50, DVRGear.com, 260-484-0404

7. Thermal Shield: Reflective and Thermal Film

The World's Thinnest Shield

Talk about a double-edged sword! This shiny, metal-infused thermal shield provides both a reflective wall covering for your indoor growroom as well as a protective barrier against heat-detection equipment for that peace of mind we all need in these intrusive days of

marijuana prohibition.

Thermal Shield is a silver and white poly-mylar covering infused with metals to provide a level of protection from outside snooping. Temperature, vapor and thermal barriers are created when using Thermal Shield, not to mention that the poly-mylar has an extremely high reflective index. This is an absolute must for sealing your grow op safely and securely. Available in 25-, 50- and 100-foot rolls (each one 3.5 feet wide). **\$30 (25'), \$50 (50'), \$90 (100')**, hydrowholesale.com, 866-803-2100

8. Green Hornet LED Night Lights

For When Work Can't Wait

Every grower knows the pitfalls associated with disturbing a sleeping garden. When the lights (or sun) are down and the ladies are fast asleep, even the slightest bit of light pollution can have a catastrophic effect, causing plants stress and even turning them hermaphrodite (which results in seeded buds).

However, there's a simple solution for those times when you absolutely have to get into that growroom, greenhouse or outdoor plot—green light.

crystallmountainproducts.com, 877-232-4769

► The Little Green Lantern (\$8):

A keychain lantern that's always with you is perfect for emergency work. With a single green LED that provides a strong work light, this mini-lantern features a flashing mode for emergencies and comes with two lithium batteries.

► The Green Hornet Head Lamp (\$19):

This hands-free unit fastens tightly on your head, giving you the flexibility and mobility needed to get through your nighttime work quickly and easily. The unit features three different modes and 20 green LEDs with over 60 hours of life.

9. Smelly Proof Bud Bags

Keeping It Quiet Until the Party Starts

Just because you're done with harvesting doesn't mean you can stop worrying about security! Keeping harvested

buds fresh and odors locked down is every bit as important as what you do while growing. Now the most trusted brand in bud-storage bags—Smelly Proof—has an entire line of sizes to help store or transport your precious cargo.

Smelly Proof bags keep odors from escaping by using a medical-grade, FDA-approved material that blocks out dust, moisture and oil while locking in odors. Smelly Proof bags can also be cleaned and reused and still keep their odor-stopping ability. Additionally, the bags can be vacuum- and heat-sealed. **Varies by size from \$40 up (100 ct.); Oven Bags, \$15 (10 ct.), amerinada.com, 877-493-7687**

10. The Digital Rack Scale

After All the Hard Work Is Done

This space-conscious digital scale is perfect for when your product needs to get weighed and moved quickly with little time or room available—just hang the scale on the sturdy, solid arm and hook on the kilos!

The Digital Rack Scale boasts an LCD screen and weighs products in four different measurements—ounces, pounds, kilograms and jin—with decimal places down to the gram unit. The portable scale has a tare function as well and runs on two AAA batteries (not included). **\$30, crystalmountainproducts.com, 877-232-4769**

11. 5-Quart Pressure Sprayer

Got Some Hard-to-Reach Plants?

Whether your growroom has some plants in a few difficult-to-get-to places or you're just looking for a pressurized mister for foliar-feeding and treatments, this little 5-quart pressure sprayer will get the job done.

Mix in light nutrients, pest-control solutions or just pure water to get your plants whatever they need, when they need it. The pressure sprayer has a nozzle tip that will adjust to deliver anything from a steady stream to a fine mist for the foliar application of your choice!



08



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11



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\$19, hydrowholesale.com, 866-803-2100

12. Breathable Fabric Aeration Pots

A Winning Innovation

A HIGH TIMES favorite, fabric aeration pots are a very smart way to contain root structures. The material used in these pots offers excellent breathability, allowing the precious oxygen that roots need to permeate the root zone.

Fabric aeration pots are durable enough to last for multiple seasons of gardening and are great for use both indoors and out. Indoor growers generally use them with tray tables, since they offer increased drainage capability. The pots stand up well to heavy harvests and can be used for either soil or hydroponic applications. Plus, the fabric is made of 100% new polypropylene and is environmentally friendly.

Varies by size from \$2 up, hydrowholesale.com, 866-803-2100

13. Six-Tiered Drying System

When Space Is Tight

Having space-management issues? If so, this drying rack was designed especially for you! Made for the home harvester, it hangs in a vertical column with six levels of breathable netting racks for easy and efficient drying.

Whether your garden is located indoors or out, drying always needs to be done inside. This drying rack not only optimizes your indoor space, but it also passively increases airflow around the buds without the need for fans or power consumption. Because the netting is permeable, these racks also prevent fungus and rot from forming on your fresh-cut nuggets. The unit is easily collapsible for flat storage and is 12.5 inches tall and 35 inches in diameter when fully assembled.

\$30, hidhut.com, 866-678-8565

14. Drip Ring Watering Column

For When Watering by Hand Is No Longer an Option

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Automated watering systems can be a godsend for the busy grower, especially where large gardens are involved. The Drip Ring Watering Column makes auto-watering your plants easy, and it's great for hydro or soil-based systems. Simply attach a pump and irrigation hose leading from the water reservoir to the Drip Ring, then stake the columns into the growing medium for easy, even drips.

\$10, specialtyhydroponics.com

15. **PowerPlot Organic GroMaxx Disc**

Simple and Smart for Indoors and Out

If you like easy growing, consider an innovative new technology that's perfect for any organic pot farmer. PowerPlot's GroMaxx grow disc is an all-natural product containing specialized mined minerals such as silica, zeolite and phillipsite, plus a unique blend of proprietary desert minerals—including the essential micronutrients that plants need to thrive.

Water and nutrients are absorbed by the grow disc, which sits at mid-level inside each plant's container. The tiny honeycombs of granules trap moisture and minerals, extending the availability of food for root uptake when needed (especially in hot climates). The grow disc can also act as a buffer between the primary grow medium and drainage stones at the bottom of the container, helping protect and contain plants' root zones. For accelerated growth, try PowerPlot's organic soil amendment as well.

Cost: GroMaxx Disc, \$10 (3 ct.); Soil Amendment, \$30 (20 lb.), growpowerplot.com, 352-348-8192

16. **Wind King High-Speed Industrial Fans**

For Non-Ducted Airflow

Not all air movement is produced via ductwork and inline fans; sometimes even the largest grow ops need the simple functionality of room fans. Wind King high-speed fans provide excellent airflow in those spaces where air gets stagnant, heat pockets

form and plant pests breed.

These powerful floor fans come in three sizes (12-, 16- and 18-inch), providing quiet and efficient air circulation for any size garden. Wind King prides itself on reliable and affordable products and backs each unit with a one-year warranty.

\$58 (12'), \$66 (16'), \$70 (18') wind-king.com

17. **Complete pH Testing and Adjusting Kit**

A Hydro Grower's Best Friend

If you grow hydroponically, you know better than anyone the fate that lies in store for growers who don't regularly test and adjust the pH level in their reservoir. Salt and residue build-up from nutrient solutions, and even the use of certain water sources, can change pH levels significantly enough to wreak havoc on entire crops. For just a few bucks and a couple of minutes per day, this pH testing and adjusting kit can save you thousands of dollars!

The kit—which comes complete with crystal pH up and down—is reliable and simple to use: Just fill the test tube with your nutrient solution, add a few drops of the pH test indicator and observe the resulting color.

\$10, monstergarden.com

18. **Solar Wind 8" Inline Fan**

Keeps Plants Healthy and Gardens Secure

Airflow in any garden is essential for healthy plants, but in an indoor growroom, it's especially crucial: Air movement not only helps keep temperatures down and delivers fresh air to gardens, but it can also aid in odor control and security.

This ductwork-compatible model, manufactured by GrowOp Technology Ltd., is an excellent alternative to some of the more expensive fans on the market, which can weigh in on the (much) pricier side of growroom gear. With a 747 cfm rating, this 8-inch inline fan is perfect for moving air over hot bulbs through connected lamp hoods, for attaching to carbon filters to scrub



13



14



15



17



16




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19. CO₂ Boost Buckets

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your indoor cycle.

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20. Payload Bags

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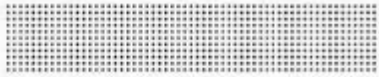
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by CHARMIE GHOLSON



JOSEPH CASIAS

When Wal-Mart fired a card-carrying medical-marijuana patient for failing a drug test, it probably didn't expect to end up in federal court.

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW



Joseph Casias displays his Michigan medical marijuana card in front of Wal-Mart, which fired him two years ago.

IN 2009, three days before Thanksgiving, Joseph Casias was fired from his job at the Wal-Mart in Battle Creek, MI, after testing positive for THC. Casias—who'd been named the company's Associate of the Year in 2008—was given a mandatory drug test after he sprained his knee while struggling to control an overloaded, top-heavy cart of merchandise.

Casias is a state-sanctioned medical-marijuana patient who suffers from a rare form of sinus cancer. As a result, he has a virtually inoperable tumor that was already the size of a softball back when he was first diagnosed at age 17. Despite having to live with severe chronic pain, Casias was successfully employed—and frequently praised—by Wal-Mart for a period of five straight years, starting off as an entry-level grocery stocker in 2004 and working his way up to inventory-control manager.

After his abrupt termination, Joseph sued Wal-Mart in state court, but the company's lawyers were successful in having the case moved to federal court, where it was dismissed. Joseph's lawyers, Daniel Grow and the ACLU, then took the case to the US Court of Appeals, arguing that the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act explicitly protects employees from being fired for using medical marijuana in accordance with the law. They're currently waiting for oral arguments in the case to be scheduled. And while Casias's cancer has been in remission for nine years, the married father of two struggles to feed his family.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Cleveland, OH. I have two younger brothers and an older sister. We lived in the city. I love Cleveland and the people there—it's a great city.

Where did your parents work?

When I was younger, my mom managed a Dunkin' Donuts. My father actually wasn't my father, but he was the only father I ever knew; he raised me from when I was one year old. He was a truck driver and a construction worker. He passed away in April of this year.

When did you move to Michigan?

Around 1994. My mom didn't know who her real father was and went looking for him. She ended up in Battle Creek and got sick. That's why I came here to begin with.

I liked it because it wasn't so fast-paced, wasn't so many people, wasn't a lot of crime in Battle Creek at that time. It was a very quiet place; everybody was really friendly. I love Michigan.

How did you find out you were sick?

It started when I was 17. I was living in Battle Creek, and I had started getting weak. I don't remember everything because I had blackouts. I only remember certain things: My nose was bleeding all the time, nonstop, no matter what I did. Then I got to the point where I was coughing up blood. I had lost so much weight, I was skin and bones. I could barely even walk.

I went to the ER in Battle Creek. I would go there all the time, but they would send me home and tell me nothing was wrong with me. The lady at the front desk knew my name in full. I did that for a year, once or twice a week, and one day I finally went in there, and there was an ER doctor from Kalamazoo who said, "You know why you're coming in here like this?" She told me I had cancer, a form of cancer that was not common—it was really rare. They weren't sure of what it was, but they knew it was cancer.

She sent me home. I went home to my mom and gave her the paperwork [for admission to the hospital]. I was on death's door by this time, and my mom picked me up and carried me to the ER room, and they started doing tests.

I remember they did a biopsy. They couldn't give me anything for pain when they stuck it up my nostril—I was too far into the final stage of cancer, and they didn't want to give me anything because it could take my life.

They figured out it was a form of sinus cancer that originated in China, but they can't figure out how I got it. It's not genetic cancer; the name is "nasopharyngeal cancer." The tumor is in the back of my head. They gave me chemo and lots of radiation right away. That stuff makes you so sick—I got so sick I wanted to die. I really thought, "This ain't worth it."

How did you become a medical-marijuana patient?

My oncologist has been my doctor since I was 17. We talked about it. I said, "This stuff is not helping—I need something that's going to help me." I was taking Lortab 10/500 [10 mg. of hydrocodone and 500 mg. of acetaminophen] for pain. I had no appetite; it made me sick to my stomach. I tried to take the anti-nausea medicine, but it just didn't work so I stopped taking them.

We talked about it, and he felt that marijuana would help me therapeutically and help me alleviate my pain. He thought it would be worth trying to see if it works—this was right after the law was passed. I didn't even vote for

"They gave me chemo and lots of radiation right away. That stuff makes you so sick—I got so sick I wanted to die."

this law because I didn't know about it, but I want to thank all the Michigan voters who passed this law. It's helped me so much.

How does marijuana help your condition?

It alleviates the pain. Using a pain scale, rating it from 1 to 10, my pain, on average, is at a 2 or 3 with marijuana. Usually my sinus is clogged, but when I smoke, five to 10 minutes later all that's clogged in there will just drop into the back of my throat, and I spit it up and can breathe through my nose again. It's an amazing thing, really. It's mind-boggling to me—when you've tried so



Casias and Daniel Grow, his attorney, discuss his case.

many different medications and none of them do this for you, but you can smoke this and it will cure it?

God put this plant here—and I don't care, no one is going to tell me any different. God put it here as a natural medicine and a natural resource, and people don't want to let it be because they have greedy ways.

You said you're in remission, but you still have the tumor?

Yes, the tumor sits on top of my spinal cord. They told me the percentages are high for me to become paralyzed or die because the tumor had eaten through the bone marrow of my spine and also the base of my skull. The tumor is actually holding my head on. It's right where my neck goes into my skull.

Eventually, one day, my head will probably fall off.

Isn't there anything they can do about that?

My doctor wanted to give me surgery. He still says I need it, but the tumor is not

"I loved working at Wal-Mart. I felt like I had a purpose. I just wanted to be the best I could possibly be at all costs."

growing, it's at a standstill. It's just there, but I still have lots of pain.

They gave me a 70 to 80 percent chance of being paralyzed or dying during that surgery. I think if my choice is between being paralyzed or dying ... well, I have little kids. I'm not trying to leave them yet.

After I met with the doctors, I felt that I will have a better chance if I don't have the surgery—besides the fact I don't have money to cover surgery like that. It's very expensive.

What is their concern?

That the tumor will move and my head will fall off my body. Kinda like a car with bad tires—when they pop, that's all there is. [Laughs] When I started working at Wal-Mart, I already had the cancer and was using different pain medicine. My pain is

constantly in my neck and my back—it's really terrible, to work like I did and do what I had to do. Grocery work is laborious work.

When did you start working at Wal-Mart?

In 2004, I hired in as an overnight grocery stocker. At first, I was just trying to support my family. My mom lived with us at the time, I had my brothers living with me—I was trying to take care of everybody. I was just trying to make a better life for everyone. I wasn't asking to be a million-dollar man—I just wanted a piece of that American dream, you know? No matter where you came from, no matter who you are, you can have a piece of that dream.

I loved working at Wal-Mart. I felt like I had a purpose. I just wanted to be the best I could possibly be at all

costs. I wanted them to look at me and say, "Hey, here's a good worker right there." That's all I wanted.

Id say you succeeded. Weren't you the 2008 Associate of the year?

Yes. In April of 2008, I became Associate of the Month, then I switched jobs during the year, got promoted and became Associate of the Year.

Wal-Mart fired you for testing positive for marijuana. Why did they drug-test you?

On that night, I didn't have enough help to get the job done. I was unloading the truck. We overstocked carts and pallets more than we should have. I asked one of the managers, "Where should we put this stuff?" He said, "Do whatever you've got to do to get it to the floor."

The manager was saying,

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“Come on!” But I was pushing the cart, and it was awkward. I pushed the cart and my knee just went the wrong way—it snapped, and I knew instantly it was real bad. I immediately sat down on a bench for a few minutes, and when I got back up, I couldn’t put pressure on my knee.

They let me go home—my shift was up anyway. They said, “Go home tonight and come back tomorrow and see how it is.” I went home and came back the next day. They offered to take me to the ER but wanted me to unload the truck first, so they’d at least have the truck unloaded. Then they took me to the ER.

After they said, “You’re going to have to take a drug test,” I let them know I’m a medical-marijuana patient. I handed them my card. They put me on crutches. I had sprained my knee pretty bad.

Then I had to see the Wal-Mart doctor, and I handed them my medical-marijuana card and again had no issues whatsoever. They put me on restrictions—I was still doing the same thing, but I couldn’t bend, squat or kneel. But I was doing the same thing I had been doing.

I think I worked for almost a week. Then I got a call from the place that does the lab work for the Wal-Mart doctor, and he told me everything came out fine, except he wanted to know if I took Marinol [a pharmaceutical drug made from synthetic THC]. I said, “I’m a medical-marijuana patient, and I have a state-issued license to use medical marijuana for my illness.”

He said, “Is it Marinol?” I said no. He said, “Is it in pill form?” I said, “No, but I have a state-issued license.” He said, “I don’t know what to tell you—you’re going to have to talk to your store manager.”

I immediately went into the manager’s office. The store manager had gone home for the day, but I told

“Joe, I understand you have a medical marijuana card, but I’m sorry to inform you that I have to terminate you.”

the co-manager about the conversation with the gentleman from the lab and showed him my card. He said, “Oh yeah, that’s why they passed that law. Why don’t you take a break and I’ll call the store manager and talk to him about this.”

I went for a break and came back, and he said, “You don’t have nothing to worry about. Everything’s fine; there’s no issue. You have the state-issued card—the only thing we need is a copy of your card.”

They took a copy of my card, and I worked the next day. And when I came back Monday, I was not there five minutes when the store manager came from the receiving area and said, “Hey, Joe, I need to talk to you in my office.” I said okay. They had the loss-prevention [security] guy there and another manager and the store manager, and we all sat down. The manager said, “Joe, I understand you have a medical-marijuana card, but I’m sorry to inform you that I have to terminate you.”

I said, “Why?” He said, “For failing the drug policy.” I said, “I don’t understand. How can you fire me if I have a health issue?” And he said, “I have to fire you. I wish I could just write you up, but I have to terminate you.”

He asked if I had any questions for him, and I said, “You’re making it clear that you’re going to terminate me.” The impression I got was, it would have been okay for me to take it in pill form—but the reason I didn’t was because my doctor said, “You’re better off growing it yourself. The Marinol will cost you \$300 a month for a prescription.”

But you had cancer when you were hired at Wal-Mart. Weren’t

you taking narcotics for the pain back then?

Yes. When I worked for Wal-Mart, I was struggling with cancer and taking different medications. I was taking Lortab.

And Wal-Mart didn’t have an issue with you taking a heavy narcotic while working for them?

You have to take a drug test when you hire in, and when I did, I was on Lortab. I showed them my prescription, and they had no issue with it. They knew I got it from the pharmacy out front. If they tell you otherwise, they’re a bunch of fibbers. They all knew I was fighting cancer.

So the Wal-Mart lab guy wanted to know if you were taking Marinol because that would have been acceptable under their drug policy?

That was the overall impression I got.

What did you do after you were fired?

I went home. I couldn’t look at my wife because I knew what it meant to my family, me being terminated. I knew we would be facing some hard times.

I cried because I really cared about my job. The managers would say, “I don’t know what we’d do without you, Joe. You’re the best employee we have. You’re our savior, Joe.” It wasn’t one or two managers—it was every manager. They knew if they wanted something done, I would do my best to do it.

When this happened, it was like, “Well, you’re fired, Joe.” How can you praise someone so much and then just completely disregard them? I never used marijuana at work. How can they punish someone for that?

How did you come to sue them?

I was upset, and I went into a severe depression and didn’t talk to anyone for three months—not my wife or my kids. Then I had a dream: I was in a room, and there were all these people with suits and ties on in the dream, and, well, it was telling me I have to make it known that I was fired. In the dream, I was emailing everyone telling them I had been fired—and why I was fired.

It seems you rely heavily on your faith.

People have different beliefs. I believe in the Bible—I [believe] the Bible is more of a literal thing. When you talk about “Love your neighbor,” I think that’s more to the point. I believe that God sent Jesus here as God to be with us—and because of our sin, He suffered through that. He sent His only begotten son here so we could have salvation and eternal life.

Regarding this battle with Wal-Mart, what do you believe is God’s plan for you?

I feel God’s plan for me is to spread as much love as I can and show people how to open up instead of having so much hate. We do have enough love for everybody. The Bible tells you to love your enemies. You shouldn’t judge people—that’s for the Lord to do. Even if they don’t believe in what you believe in, you should still love them.

Do you love Wal-Mart?

[Long pause] Yes. I just want them to do the right thing. I do love them. Did they make me upset? Of course they did—but it’s just not in my nature to hate anyone or anything. That’s the person I am. 🌱

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SUBJECT: **Males Gone Wild**

FROM: **Eric**

🌿 I started growing outdoors six years ago, usually growing 10 or 12 plants each summer, about half of which resulted in female plants each season. My growing conditions aren't ideal, but the girls usually yield enough pot to last me through the winter. This year, all my plants developed into males, which I culled from my crop as soon as the male characteristics were apparent. However, not wanting my efforts to be a total flop (and having nothing to lose) I have let my two remaining plants (both males) continue to grow. My questions are: will male plants produce any buds worth smoking? And will the seeds from these plants be OK for me to plant next summer, or would they be more likely to produce more male plants? High Times has been incredibly helpful in all my grow efforts and I appreciate all the years of good advice.

Dear Eric,
Male plants won't produce buds at all. When males flower, they form pollen sacks that aren't good for smoking at all. Without females around, they won't produce seeds either, making them basically useless unless you plan to collect their pollen for breeding purposes. I say destroy the males and focus on getting the amount of females you want for next year's run. Good luck!

SUBJECT: **Ant Misbehaving**

FROM: **Jesse**

🌿 Hello, I was wondering—are ants bad for my bud tree? I've been seeing a few here and there and it seems like they are multiplying rapidly.

Dear Jesse,
Ants are definitely bad for your cannabis plants. Not only do they build their nests in your growing medium, doing damage to your delicate root system, they also have a habit of "ranching" aphids. They herd the aphids around and consume the sweet secretions that the aphids produce from eating your plants. It's incredible to see the way the ants are able to exploit a

different species for their own gain, but you must get rid of both the ants and the aphids as soon as possible.

Several different remedies exist for ridding your grow area of ants. They particularly hate cinnamon, so spreading some around will repulse them and hopefully make them migrate elsewhere. Uncooked grits on the surface of your growing medium also works wonders against infestations. Ants eat them and practically explode when they expand in their digestive system. Another common ant killer is boric acid spread lightly around your growing medium or around the outside of your pots. Be sure not to apply too much, as it will have an adverse effect on your plants.

Danko Tip: In soil or soilless mix, keep pH levels of soil and nutrient solution between 6.2-6.8.



Chlorine burns look almost white initially and will eventually kill leaves.

SUBJECT: **Burnt Leaves**

FROM: **G Funk**

🌱 Some of my plants have been having an issue lately and it's a burn if I'm not mistaken. I need to know for sure so I can fix it. Some of the leaves are getting burnt spots that are brownish looking in the middle of the leaves and at the tips. The burns start out as a small yellow or brown spot which grows to a bigger brown spot and eventually the whole leaf will die off. From what I can tell, it seems to be a phosphorous problem or a nutrient/salt build up. I flushed my pots which are 20 gallons with 30 gallons of tap water/Flora Kleen (General Hydroponics) about one week ago and cut off the burnt leaves so I could more accurately monitor future issues. The issues stopped for several days but I'm starting to get some more burns. Another possible theory I've considered is an excess of chlorine in the tap water. I have heavily fed them about 3 - 4 (at most) times a week until a week or two ago and now feed heavy two times a week and water daily. My medium is Foxfarm Ocean Forest/Sunshine Mix/Bat Guano. Thank you for all the advice you guys provide: it's a blessing!

Dear G,
Sounds to me like you have accurately diagnosed your problem as burning caused by too much chlorine in your water. Since you flushed your plants and the problem persisted, I would have to agree that chlorine is definitely the issue. Luckily, it's an easy problem to remedy and you should see healthier results quite quickly.

Let any water you are going to use on your plants to sit out overnight in an open container and the chlorine will evaporate. Then add your nutrients to your water and use that chlorine-free nutrient solution. You should see no more signs of burnt leaves shortly.

SUBJECT: **Closet Lighting**

FROM: **Mocha Man**

🌱 Love the column, and I'm a huge fan of your potcast! It's my first time growing inside. What's the best high intensity discharge (HID) light - HPS or MH? And also what wattage for a 4' x 3' closet?

Dear Mocha,
For a beginner growing in a closet the size that you describe I'd recommend a 250-watt high-pressure sodium lighting system. You could use a 400-watt but I think you'll have more heat issues than

you might be prepared to deal with. Ideally, you would use a 250-watt metal halide (MH) during the vegetative stage of growth and switch to the HPS for the flowering stage. Another great option is a bank of T5 fluorescent lights made for growing plants. They're very forgiving heat-wise, and they use less electricity.

Thanks for the potcast love. Check out hightimes.com/freeweeds and live-norml.org to listen or subscribe to my potcast, HIGH TIMES Presents "Free Weed from Danny Danko".

SUBJECT: **Strain Hunter**

FROM: **A dude who needs some help**

🌱 I'm soon going to become a first-time grower and I like to consider myself to be somewhat of a connoisseur. I'm someone who is utterly infatuated with cannabis, from growth to medical advances to the joyous smoke and now I have an opportunity to grow my own stash.

I've read as many issues of High Times as I can get my hands on, meticulously studied every article and bit of information I can find. I know though that I don't know everything, which is why I've come to you. With all of these amazing strains available, how do I decide which one is the best for me? I tend to favor *indica* or *indica*-dominant plants, and will be growing with organic soil in a 3' x 3' x 6' tent from hydrowholesale.com with the upgraded 600-watt air cooled lighting system.

I know certain strains I'll eventually grow, but I don't want to dive in too deep and get more than I can handle. So in short, what is a great yielding, high potency strain that's great for beginners? Anything that is resistant to pests and diseases is very welcome. Thanks for reading and hope to get a response from a pro like yourself.

Dear Dude,

There are several great *indica*-dominant strains that are good yielders with high potency. They tend to be pest and disease resistant as well due to their shorter flowering season and heartier temperament when compared to *sativas*. Three that I can think of offhand are Hash Plant from Sensi Seeds, LA Confidential from DNA Genetics or MK-Ultra from T.H.Seeds.

Ultimately, you want to grow the strains that you love to smoke already so choose the ones best for you.

Danko Tip: In hydroponic reservoirs, keep nutrient pH levels between 5.4-6.2.

SUBJECT: **Plant Spacing**

FROM: **Tracey**

🌱 I'm starting a legal grow op in Michigan.

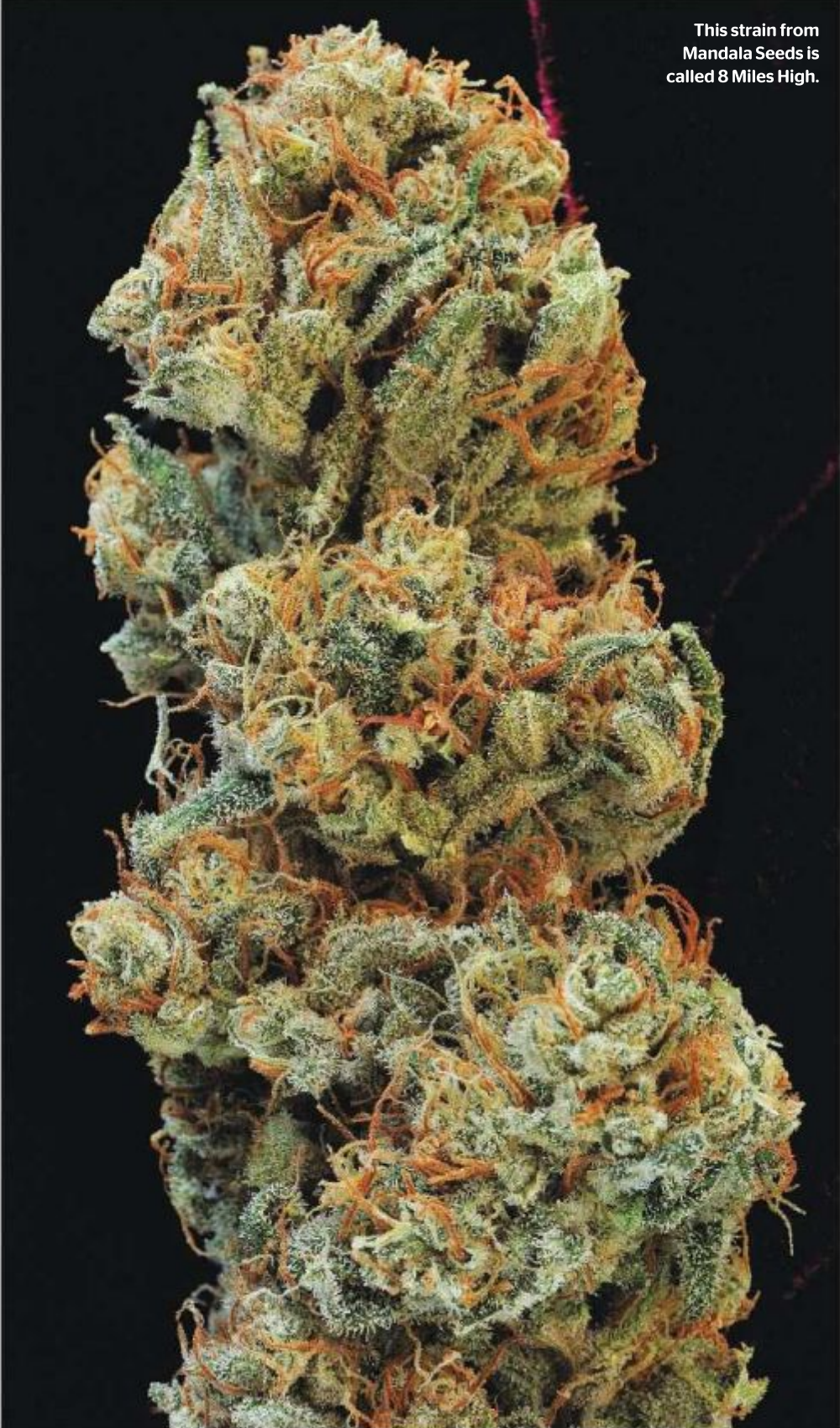
The state says I have a limit of 12 plants. Is it too much to grow each plant under its own 600-watt HPS bulb, meaning 12 lights in my grow space? Thanks in advance.

Dear Tracey,

Theoretically, you can grow each plant

under its own 600-watt bulb, although this will mean you have several very important factors to consider—not the least of which will be the enormous amount of space and energy you'll need to accommodate that many hot grow-lights. Using air or water cooled lights will help but you'll need a warehouse sized space with industrial air-conditioning installed in order to maintain that large a grow op.

Also, the plants will need to vegetate for many weeks and even several months in order to get big enough to take advantage of your entire light canopy. You need to use huge containers, 35-gallon tubs or larger, and let the plants grow under 18-22 hours of light per day until they develop an enormous root system and plenty of branching tops. Pruning and topping in order to keep the plants short and stocky is essential to not having 10-foot tall stretchy plants in your space.



This strain from Mandala Seeds is called 8 Miles High.

SUBJECT: **Neem Oil Blues**

FROM: **RedOut Inc.**

🌱 First and foremost I want to thank you for putting out a magazine that is dedicated not only to the hobbyist grower, but also to those who are pioneering the cannabis movement. I have been reading High Times religiously from front to back for quite a few years and am grateful for the info I have been able to synthesize from it. I'm currently going to school in pursuit of my PhD in psychopharmacology to help those who can benefit from this botanical agent and to also tranquilize the stigma of using cannabis as a therapeutic alternative.

My question for you is that, every time I seem to employ neem oil as a treatment and preventative against infestation, some of my phillies seem to have their leaves curl downwards. I am mixing it as directed and also applying a wetting agent. Am I applying too strong a mixture or just too much per plant? I'm stumped. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

Dear Red,

Congrats on your studies as well as your dedication to the marijuana law reform movement. We need experts in all fields to stand up with us for freedom.

You may indeed be using too much neem oil in your applications. Try using half the recommended amount and also rinse it off with plain water after an hour or so of letting it sit on your leaf tops and undersides. Use a sprayer and make sure to keep the lights far away when misting.

SUBJECT: **The Size of the Pot**

FROM: **MistrGreenJeans**

🌱 Through reading High Times for many years, I know that bigger is better when it comes to planter pot size. My vegetative area isn't tall enough to handle my girls

Danko Tip: Overfeeding and overwatering are the most common beginner mistakes.

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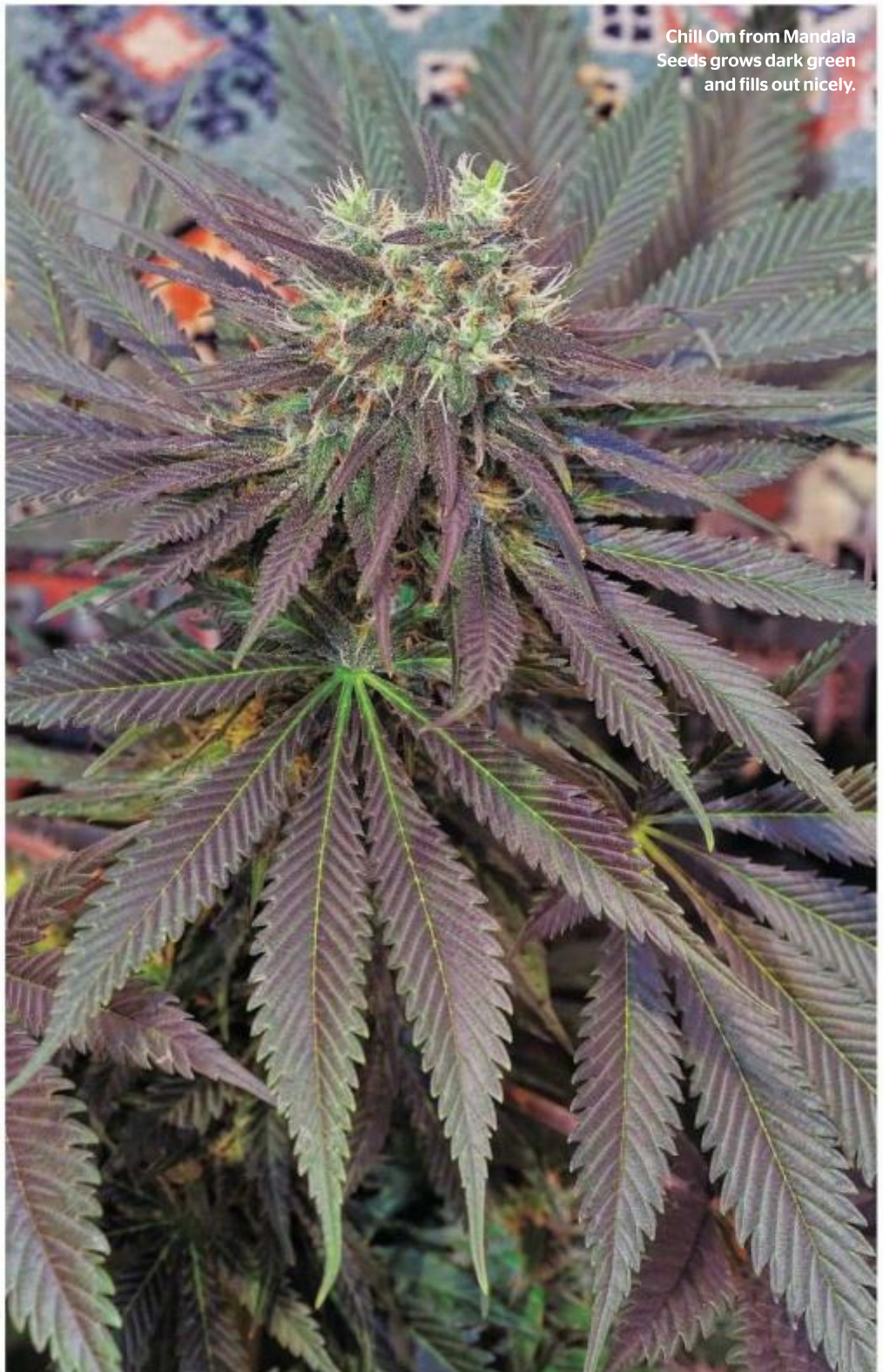
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in their final resting place and they're over a foot tall when entering the flowering area. What is the latest time in a plant's life (in flowering) that I can transplant into a bigger pot? Do roots continue to grow throughout the flowering stage?

Dear MGJ,
I don't recommend transplanting flowering plants due to the time that it takes them to recover from the shock of the

process. Unless your plants are severely rootbound, I would only transplant them during the vegetative stage and not within two weeks of when you plan to switch the light cycle.

Roots will continue to grow throughout the flowering stage but your best bet is not to disturb them during this crucial time. The week or so they need to recover from transplant shock will be wasted and your yield will suffer.



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Danko Tip: Stop foliar feeding plants after flowers have begun forming.

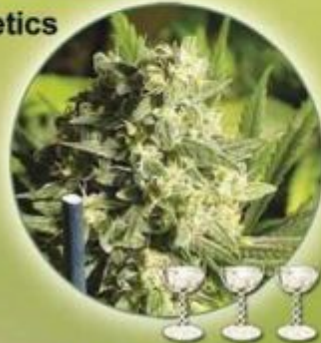
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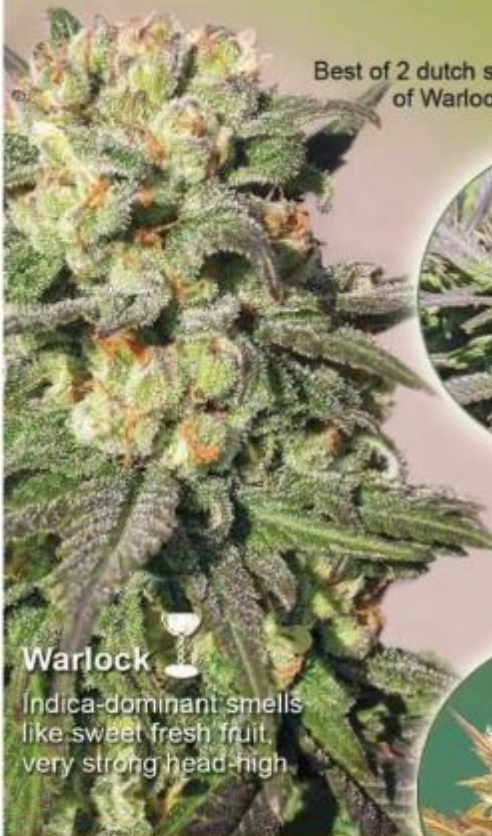
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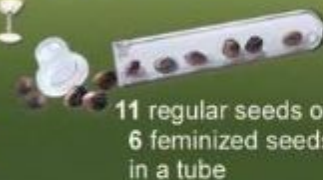
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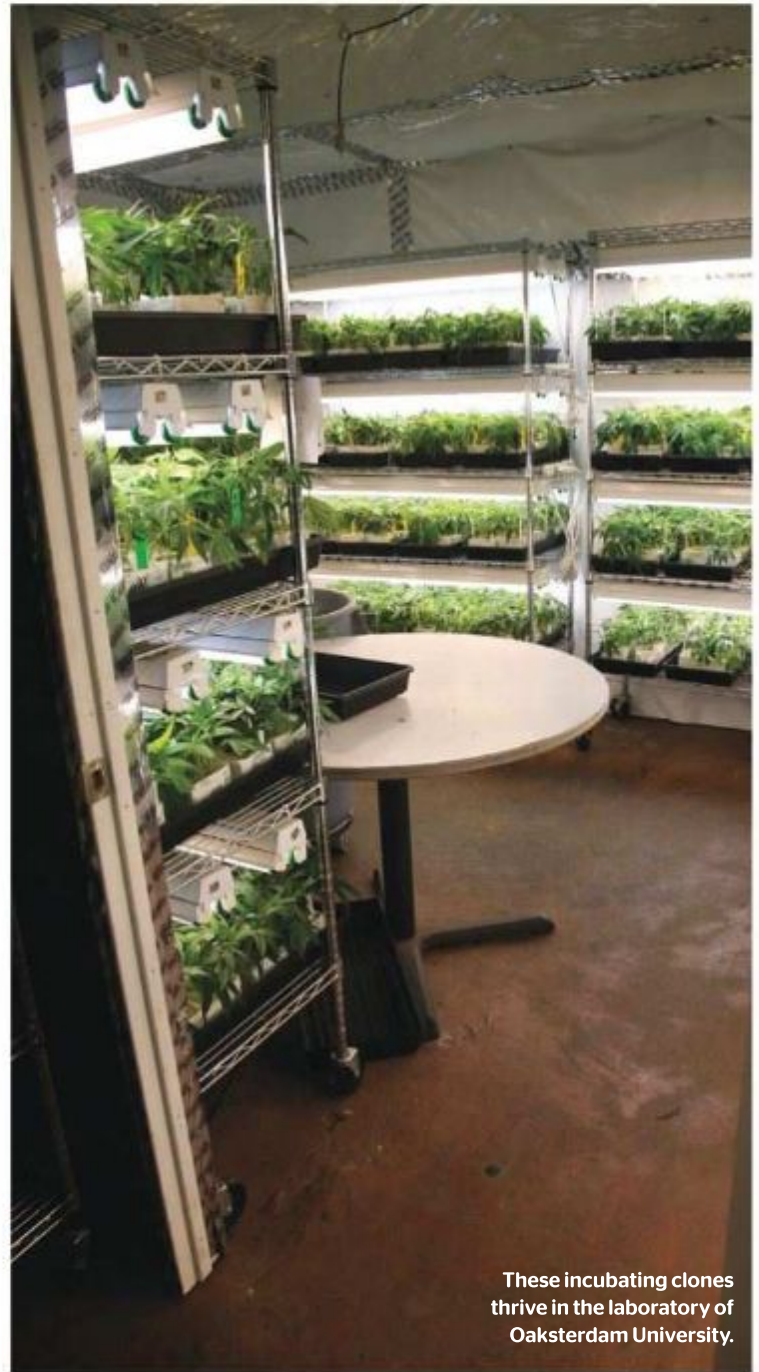
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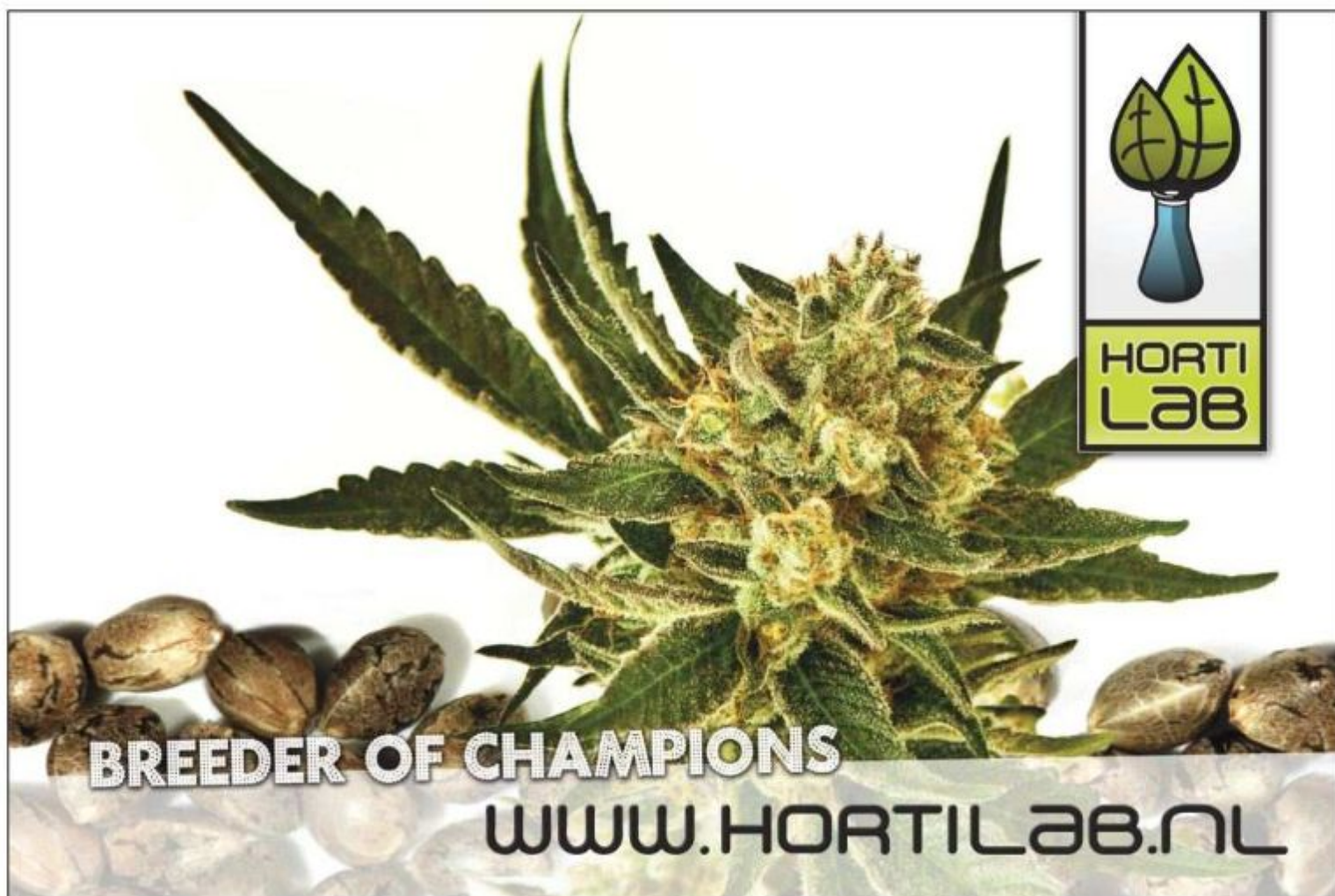
SUBJECT: **Skunked**

FROM: **Ray**

🌿 I smoked "skunk weed" back in the '70s and found it to be a weed that gives you the drive to get up and do things. It has a good effect on people who are a bit lazy. Is that type of skunk weed still grown and available?

Dear Ray,

I think what you are describing is a *sativa*-dominant variety that's particularly stinky as well. In the '80s they called it Road Kill Skunk and it has obtained quite a lore and mythology around it. Sadly, it seems the exact strain was lost to the ages, but many wonderful *sativa*-dominant strains remain. I would try anything with Southeast Asian, African or South American genetics, as these are typically the regions with the most uplifting and soaring *sativas*. In particular, try Vietnamese, Thai, Nigerian or Colombian for herb that motivates.



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Danko Tip: Buy a negative ion generator to help eliminate odors.

SUBJECT: **Cloning Station**

FROM: **Peggy Lou**

🌱 I have some "Ultimate" clones going on three weeks old. I used cloning gel (instead of powder) and the small moist planting plugs. I placed them under florescent lights (under a humidity dome) for two weeks. The clones are all standing tall even after the dome has been removed for one week. After the dome was removed I changed to a mild fertilizer solution. I checked today to see if they were ready to transplant, but lo and behold there isn't one root to be seen in the one plug I removed to check. There are no other roots coming through the bottom of the other plugs in the tray. These clones are larger (about 4") and sturdier than any I have taken before. These were from an outdoor plant. My others have been from my indoor garden. Shall I do anything or just wait? Thanks!

Dear Peggy,

As long as your clones look green and healthy, there's still a chance that they will root eventually. If you wait and provide enough warmth and humidity, you should find your cuttings will root. Perhaps you could add an electric heat mat underneath your tray to encourage rooting? But remember, some strains take a bit longer to send out roots so stay patient as long as they're alive.

SUBJECT: **Shed Grow**

FROM: **Gabe F.**

🌱 I'm currently looking into a new living situation where there is already a shed built in the fenced back yard. It's of decent size and cleanliness to serve as a decent grow area. I'm not worried too much about legal or security issues since I'm a legal patient and the laws already require the garden to be locked up. However, I live in central Michigan where winters are quite cold and summers get pretty hot, and I worry about the temperature creating extensive costs and even more maintenance/ monitoring since the shed is sparsely insulated. What is your personal opinion/ experience with shed grows, and do you think it would be a better use of my time to insulate the shed, or just keep the garden in the house? (Where I would have a significantly smaller area). Thanks and regards!

Dear Gabe,

Your best bet is to take down the shed and put up a greenhouse. There are many affordable ones on the market including kits that can be delivered right to your door. This way, you'll have better control of the heat and cold as well as a longer growing season.

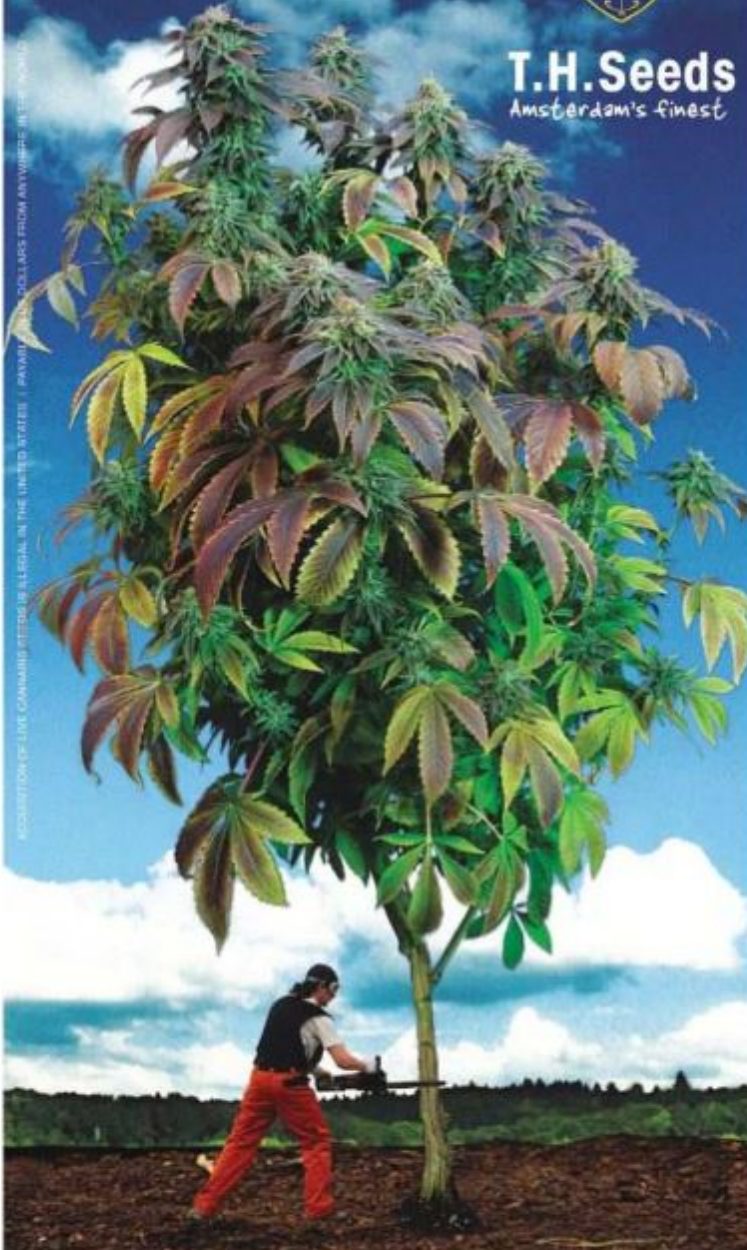
If your plan is indoor growing year-round, you could insulate the shed as well as you can and make sure you have a way to heat during winter and cool it down in summer. You'll probably have better success if you just keep the garden in your house due to all the surrounding issues of using the shed. Either way, consider dealing with the weather as a year-round gig, and think about the greenhouse for optimal results. 🌱

Send your cannabis-related questions to edit.grow@hightimes.com or to Trans-High Corp., Attn: Danny, 419 Park Ave. South, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10016.



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Out of the Pot Closet

In his new book *Marijuanaland*, Jonah Raskin examines California's exploding marijuana culture.

Jonah Raskin is a major figure in counterculture journalism. He holds a Ph.D. in English and American literature, though he got much of his education after he joined the Yippies and raised hell with Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin and Paul Krassner. Raskin helped Abbie Hoffman go underground in 1974 and wrote a novel out of that experience, *Underground*. From the birth of the American Indian Movement to the persecution of the Black Panthers, Jonah Raskin was there. Raskin's film *Homegrown* was the first serious attempt to introduce the Emerald Triangle to Hollywood, and his new book is called *Marijuanaland*.

You come from a pedigree of radicals.

Yes. My parents were Reds. Both my mother and my father. Kind of non-conformists. They spent most of their life on the East Coast, and about 1970 they went to the West Coast and got into organic farming and growing marijuana, and being part of the counterculture in Northern California.



Marijuanaland
by Jonah Raskin
(HIGH TIMES Books)

When did you first become aware of marijuana?

When I was in college. I went to Columbia, partially because the Beats had been there. So I played football and I also

wrote poetry. I knew Kerouac wrote poetry and played football, so he was a real early role model. There were some guys at Columbia who had marijuana. I didn't try it there.

Did you have any involvement with marijuana up until the time you got involved in the film *Homegrown*?

My father died in 1977. I had a lot of high-quality marijuana. I knew a couple of people who were dealers but I wasn't plugged into the marijuana world. I was working on my book about B. Traven. I'd get up in the morning, smoke a joint, sit down at my typewriter and I'd work on the book. I'd smoke pot all day and write. And for the first time I found out smoking pot helped me write. I did one draft in three weeks and a second draft in three weeks. I did the third draft in three weeks, so I did this book in nine weeks. So one day there's a knock on the door. And the guy I know from the apartment across the hallway who goes to the

junior college comes by and says, do you have any pot for sale? So I say to him, while putting on an incredulous face as possible, what makes you think I would have any pot for sale? This is like an apartment complex. He says this whole apartment complex reeks of marijuana, and everyone knows you have marijuana. So I said how much do you want? He says a lid. So I get a plastic bag and I filled it up with pot. I had never sold any pot. So how much do you want, he asks? Five dollars. The guy is like astounded. I came to New York early on and went to HIGH TIMES, when Gabrielle was the editor, and talked to her about writing about Northern California. In the early eighties I wrote under a pseudonym, Joe Delicado.

What's the new book about?

Marijuanaland looks at marijuana from every possible perspective. It's got lawyers, growers, dealers, law enforcement people, and doctors. I follow two brothers who were growing. We had some great times together harvesting, manicuring, drying and bagging. After a day of manicuring pot and smoking hash, it was inside me, it was all over me, so it kind of ends with me and marijuana as one and the same. When *Homegrown* was made, I was not out of the closet, and students from the school newspaper would ask if I smoked marijuana. I would say, no, I don't smoke marijuana. They said, you made a movie about it and you don't smoke it? So it's not plausible deniability any more. After the movie came out, the president of Sonoma State college was listing faculty achievements, and mentioned I had a Hollywood movie. So, the book is about coming out, and how I'm identified enough with marijuana to say, yeah, I smoke marijuana. ✨

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Pot Roast

Bobby's bachelor party was an herb-infused combo of hilarity and headbanging.



TO THE TYPICAL guy, a bachelor party means lots of Jäger shots and lap dances. But I'm no typical guy—so instead, I reserved a night at New York's Delancey club, booked a few metal bands, enlisted my cannabis cabrón Jose Mangin (from SiriusXM) to act as host, and invited my loved ones to come tear me a new bong-hole. And just like that, the HIGH TIMES Roast of Bobby Black was on.

"Your wedding will be my first pagan event," roastmaster Mangin confessed as he got the festivities underway. "When I think of pagans, I think of wild orgies with hot babes in black robes and animal masks, patchouli dudes in mandals, and Ewoks."

Other roasters included HT staffers Danny Danko, Chris Simunek, Frank Max and Dave Bienenstock (by proxy), as well as The Marijuana-logues' Rob Cantrell, metal promoter Tim Martinez, my best friend Paul and even my dad. Here are some highlights:

Martinez: "I love that every time I've been with Bobby at a music festival, teenagers have come up to him with their summonses for marijuana possession for him to autograph."

Cantrell: "'Almost Infamous'? You're not giving yourself enough credit. You are infamous—for smoking a bong out of a stripper's ass on national radio! Doing coke off a chick's titties is rock star; smoking weed out of a stripper's ass is just shitty."

Bienenstock: [via Danko] "When most people create an alter ego, it's a cooler version of themselves. But Bobby's already so monumentally, off-the-charts, throw-your-horns-in-the-air fuckin' cool that he had to invent one that's actually less cool—Rob. For example, Bobby loves double-D's, while Rob is more into D&D. Bobby parties with porn stars; Rob has Tivo'd an entire season of *Pawn Stars*."

Danko: "We knew it was getting serious between Bobby and April when he had the stripper pole removed from his

office. When you told me you were dating 'Miss April,' I assumed she was a Playmate—but instead, she's your soulmate."

My dad: "We told Rob growing up, 'Enjoy your youth, because sooner or later life's gonna beat the crap out of you.' Some guys, if they're lucky, their bachelor party goes on until dawn—your bachelor party's been going on for the past 15 freakin' years!"

After everyone had had their fun, it was my turn to dish it out.

On Danko: "How ironic is it that the same guy whose name has become synonymous with growing actually stopped growing himself back in sixth grade?"

On Paul: "Paul's head is so big that when it rains, his clothes don't get wet."

On Cantrell: "You may have seen Rob on *Last Comic Standing* ... he was the guy who lost. And what's up with that 'fro, dude? You look like Scooter

from *The Muppet Show* after one too many oil hits."

On Tim: "I met Tim through our friend Mistress Juliya from Fuse TV. Tim is so far up Juliya's ass she has to ask his permission to take a shit."

On Jose: "Other than Cheech Marin, you are the weediest wetback I know. Hey, Jose—what do you call a group of stoned Mexicans? Baked beans!"

After all the lambasting and laughter were over, we headed downstairs for some good old-fashioned headbanging. All-girl tribute band Judas Priestess brought the metal, Doobie Award winners Cycle of Pain laid it down, then thunder-boogie band Atomic Bitchwax drove it on home. All in all, it was an epic end to my reign as a pot playboy and a heartwarming start to my new life as a family man. ✨

Next month: Bobby Black's wedding!



Roasters Jose Mangin and Tim #37.

"Your bachelor party's been going on for the past 15 freakin' years!"

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Student Witchhunts

Random student drug testing is an epic failure.

IN RECENT YEARS, the US Department of Education has awarded tens of millions in taxpayer dollars to fund controversial student drug-testing programs in public high schools. The result? Teens who attend schools with “suspicionless” drug-screening programs possess fewer civil liberties than their peers—and are no less likely to use illicit substances.

The most recent assessment, published in the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* (Aug. '11), measured the impact of school drug-testing programs on a nationally representative sample of 943 high-school students. Investigators reported that the imposition of random drug-screening programs failed to reduce the self-reported use of alcohol, tobacco or illicit drugs among male students. The researchers acknowledged that student drug-testing programs were associated with minor reductions in the self-reported drug use of female students, but only among those who attended schools with “positive” environments. By contrast, investigators found that the enactment of drug-testing programs in “negative” school environments was most likely to be associated with “harmful effects on female youth.”

The study’s authors concluded: “The current research expands on previous findings indicating that school drug testing does not in and of itself deter substance use.” Instead, they found that “drug testing should not be undertaken as a stand-alone substance prevention effort” and that “improvements in school climate should be considered before implementing drug testing.”

The study’s conclusions were hardly surprising—or unique. Despite repeated claims that these programs represent a potential “silver bullet” in society’s efforts to reduce adolescent drug abuse, studies evaluating their effectiveness have consistently demonstrated the opposite. In fact, a 2010 study by the US Department of Education found that mandatory, random drug-screening programs “had no statistically significant impacts” upon



“The current research expands on previous findings indicating that school drug testing does not in and of itself deter substance use.”

substance use, either among the students tested or the student body at large, and that “there was no significant difference in self-reported substance use between the treatment and control schools.”

Similarly, a 2007 study published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* concluded that school drug-testing programs do not reduce self-reported drug use and may even encourage greater risk-taking behaviors among those tested. Investigators from Oregon’s Health & Science University conducted the two-year trial, which, to date, remains the only randomized clinical trial to assess the deterrent effect of drug and alcohol testing among

high-school athletes. The researchers found that students who underwent random testing did not differ in their self-reported drug use compared to students at neighboring schools who were not enrolled in such programs. Perhaps most disturbingly, the researchers determined that students subjected to random drug testing were more likely to report an “increase in some risk factors for future substance use” compared to students who attended schools without drug and alcohol testing.

Yet despite their consistently poor results, an estimated one-quarter of public schools now employ some form of drug-testing program. But they shouldn’t: Random drug testing is an ineffective, humiliating and invasive practice that undermines the relationships between students and educators and runs contrary to the principles of due process. It compels teens to potentially submit evidence against themselves and forfeit their privacy rights as a necessary requirement for attending school. Rather than presuming teenagers innocent of illicit activity, “suspicionless” drug testing presumes them guilty until they prove themselves innocent. It’s time to end this punitive practice and stop treating students as criminals. ✨

Paul is deputy director of NORML. Visit norml.org

FREEDOM FIGHTER

by Erik Altieri, NORML outreach coordinator

Miller’s Crossing

NORML’s Women’s Alliance coordinator cultivates compassion in California.



Despite being relatively new to our movement, Kyndra Miller stands out as an invaluable, impassioned activist.

Before getting involved in marijuana-law reform, Miller earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from UC San Diego in 1994, then went on to graduate from Sacramento’s Lincoln School of Law in 2002 and also pass the California Bar. Shortly thereafter, she worked

as a volunteer attorney for Americorps and, upon completing her work there, went into private practice, opening an entertainment-law firm in Los Angeles. Currently, she’s the president and CEO of CannaBusiness Law Inc.

At the beginning of 2011, Miller joined the NORML Women’s Alliance and soon became one of its most active members, currently serving as its West Coast coordinator. Thus far, she has mounted fundraisers, given countless interviews and participated in national NORML events. At this year’s High Times Medical Cannabis Cup in San Francisco,

Miller organized a successful fundraiser for the Women’s Alliance at the Pier 5 Law Offices. This past summer, she also coordinated a Spanish-language outreach event in Fresno, CA.

Last April, Miller was a featured speaker on the “Closing the Cannabis Gender Gap” panel at NORML’s annual conference in Denver, and she’ll also be speaking to attorneys from across the country at the NORML Key West Legal Seminar in December. Kyndra Miller’s tireless work and achievements are a testament to how much can be accomplished in a short amount of time with a huge amount of commitment.

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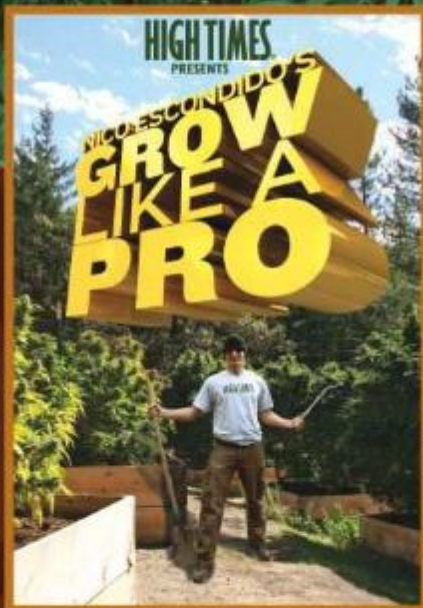
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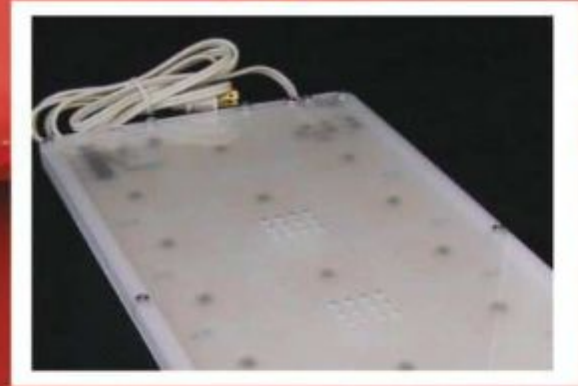
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Grows 120 Pounds of Dried Plant Matter Per Year.
Includes everything you need including 1200w HPS/MH lighting system, a year supply of nutrients, warranty, and free tech support. All you need is water and plants! Soil version also available on request. This system uses Hydro Heart technology.

Capacity: 35 Plants
Dimensions: 7'H x 8'W x 4'D
Price: \$2495

Grows 60 Pounds of Dried Plant Matter Per Year.
Includes everything you need including 600w HPS/MH lighting system, a year supply of nutrients, warranty, and free tech support. All you need is water and plants! Soil version also available on request. This system uses Hydro Heart technology.

Capacity: 19 Plants
Dimensions: 4'D x 4'W x 6.5'T
Price: \$1750



MINI MORTGAGE LIFTER

Grows 6 Pounds of Dried Plant Matter Per Year.
Includes everything you need including 150w HPS/MH lighting system, a year supply of nutrients, warranty, and free tech support. All you need is water and plants! This system uses Superponics technology.

Capacity: 8 Plants
Dimensions: 61"H x 14"W x 24"D
Price: \$1295

Grows 5 Pounds of Dried Plant Matter Per Year.
Includes everything you need including 200w CFL lighting system, a year supply of nutrients, warranty, and free tech support. All you need is water and plants! This system uses Superponics technology.

Capacity: 12 Plants
Dimensions: 30"H x 18"W x 24"D
Price: \$795



SUPER BOX




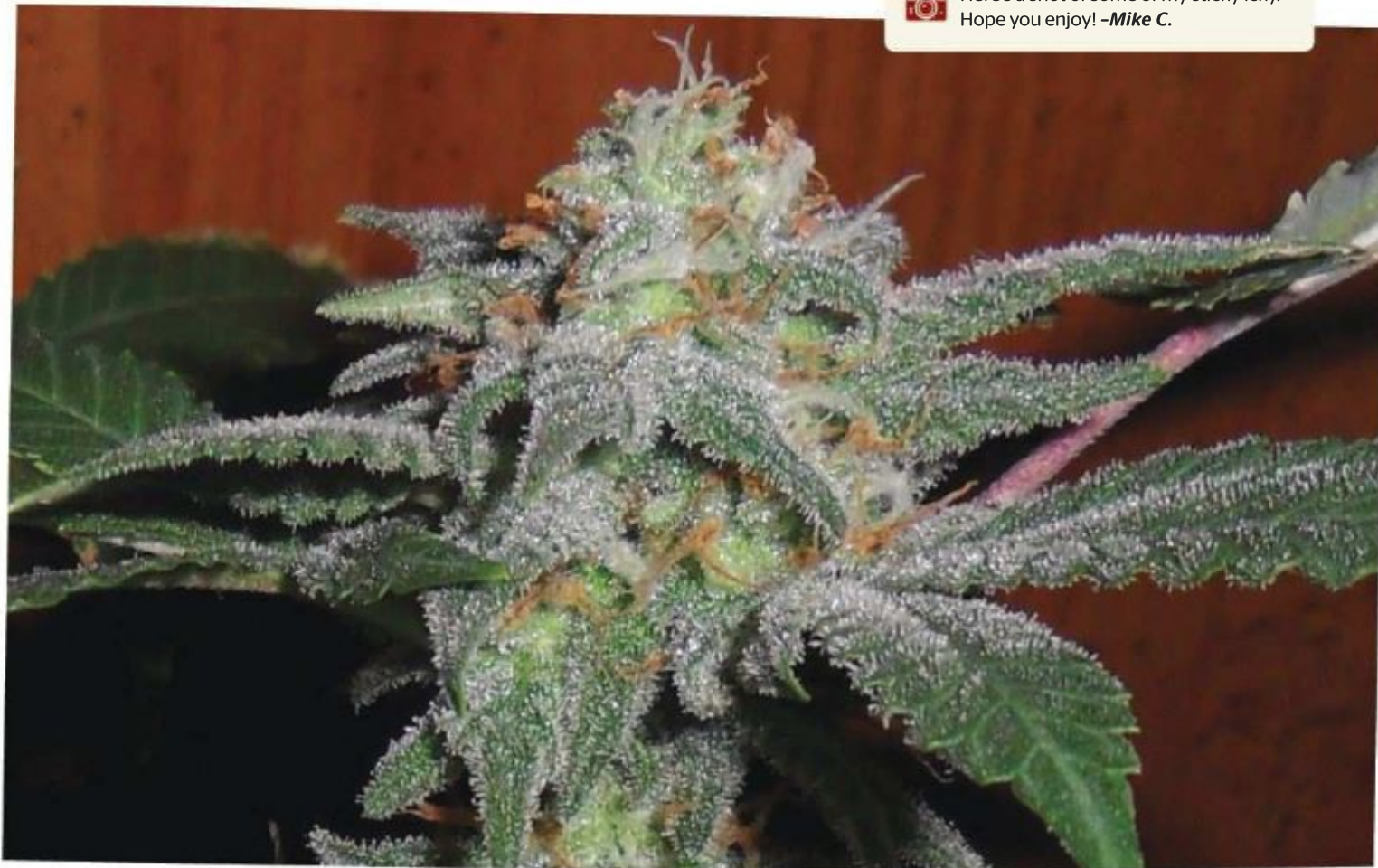
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She was grown organically under 600-watt MH lighting and flowered for 10 weeks.

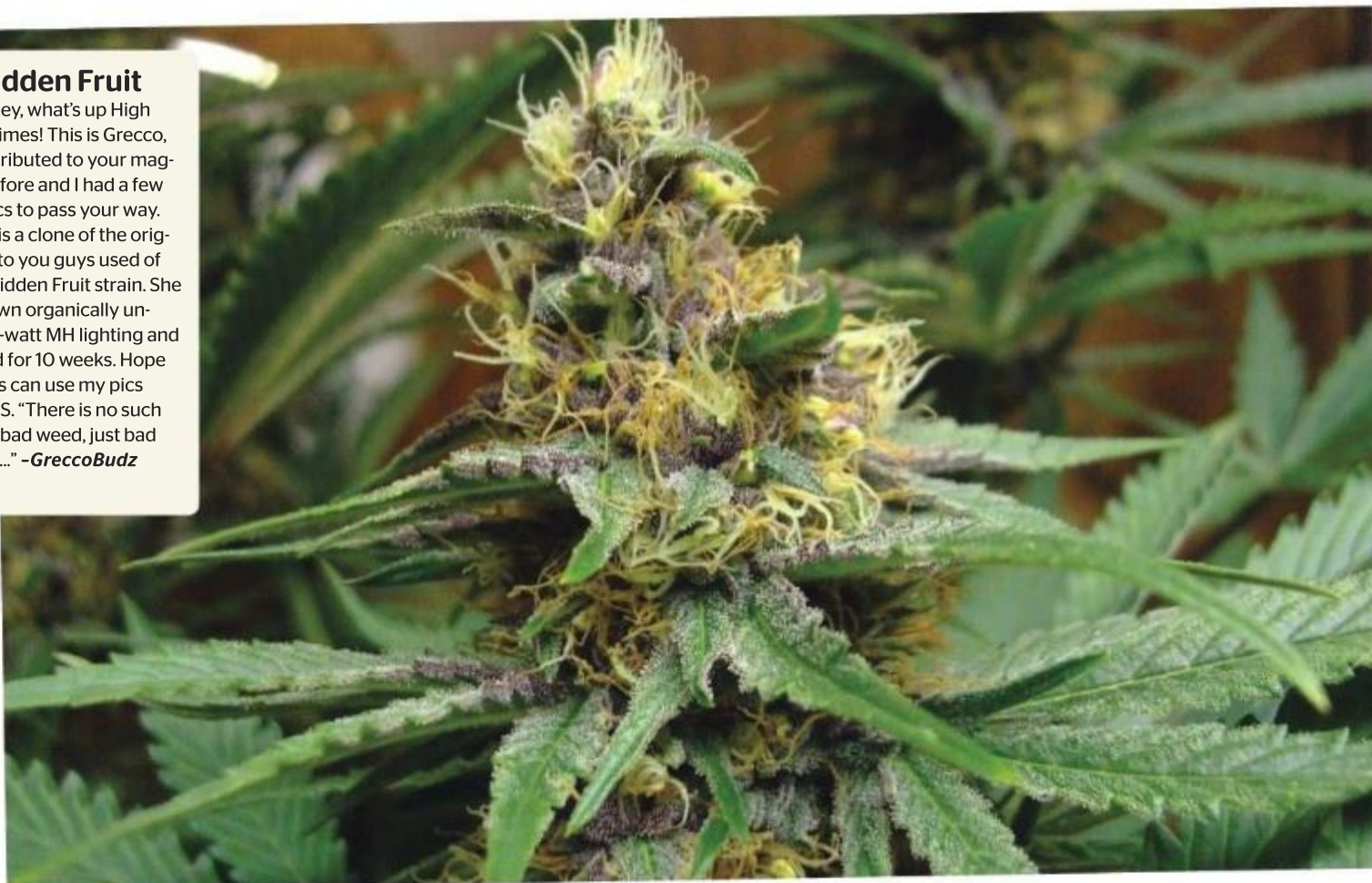
Frosty Tops

 Here's a shot of some of my sticky icky. Hope you enjoy! -Mike C.



Forbidden Fruit

 Hey, what's up High Times! This is Grecco, I've contributed to your magazine before and I had a few more pics to pass your way. This pic is a clone of the original photo you guys used of my Forbidden Fruit strain. She was grown organically under 600-watt MH lighting and flowered for 10 weeks. Hope you guys can use my pics again! P.S. "There is no such thing as bad weed, just bad growers..." -GreccoBudz



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GROW OF THE MONTH

First Year Grow

Here's a pic of my first year grow and my brother's fifth year grow. 36 plants in total with 18 different strains including Chemdog, C-99, Maui, Lavender, Pre '98 Bubba Kush, and Chernobyl. I've been told that our garden is pretty good and the growth is great.

What do you think? If you guys at High Times feel that we have a HT worthy crop please let me know as I love your magazine and would love for you guys to come out and shoot during budding. Either way, I look forward to hearing back from you and hope you keep it green and clean! **-Shawn Van**

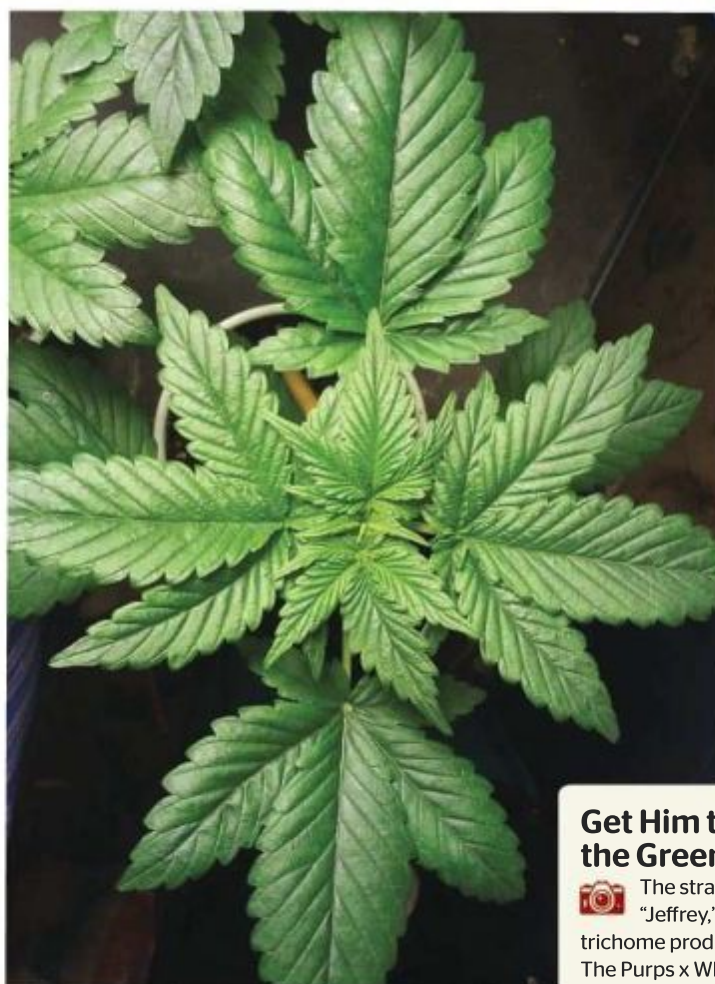
36 plants in total with 18 different strains including Chemdog, C-99, Maui, Lavender, and Chernobyl.



STONER OF THE MONTH

Merry Cannabis

Hope to see my Charlie Brown Christmas tree in a future High Times Pix of the Crop. Don't the stockings look nice and full? **-NASCARTIMBOB**



Get Him to the Green

The strain is The "Jeffrey," a heavy trichome producer of The Purps x White Widow F1 hybrid that's a fruity smoke. **-P.C.**

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Executive editor Dan Skye covers the high-altitude crops of the Rocky Mountain State.

► UV Light and THC

Greg Green, author of *The Cannabis Grow Bible*, takes an in-depth look at ultraviolet light and its possible effects on the potency of cannabis.

► The Concentrate Revolution

We explore the new gadgets, lingo and techniques that have brought the ancient art of hash-making into the 21st century.

► Pot & Pregnancy

The idea of expectant mothers ingesting marijuana in any form is an issue that has spurred contentious debate.

► The End?

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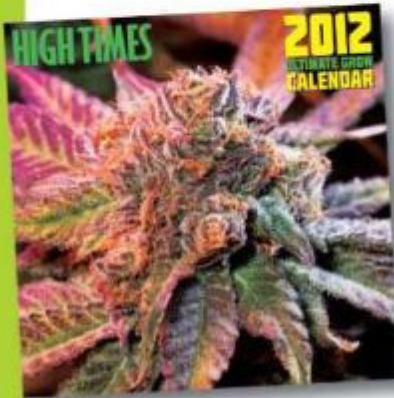
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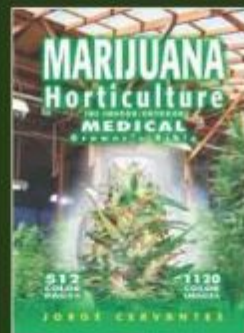


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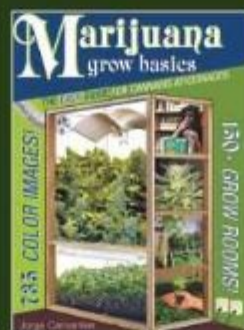
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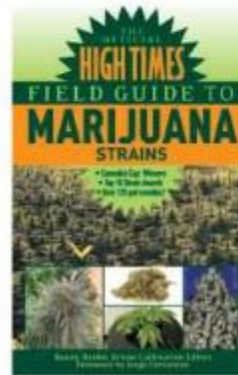


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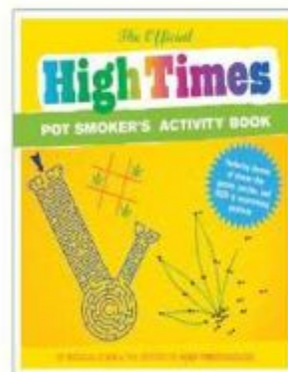
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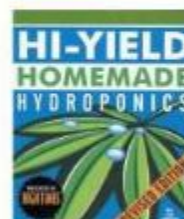
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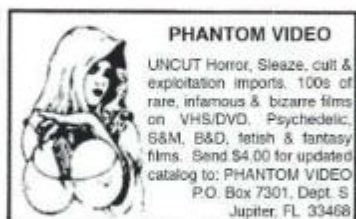
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29 **TERONA STREET CAT HOUSE**

30 **James Brown**

31 **Chef RA:** You inspired me. I wish you could taste my stuff. I shook your hand in front of the capitol, I think it was summer of '91. I was the preppy guy with the beer in his hand, the writer. May you cook with the Great Chefs in heaven, sing with Bob Marley and have a beer with my old man.

32 DON'T SWEAT THE PETTY THINGS, OR PET SWEATY THINGS.

33 **NEW MEXICO GREEN CHILE!** It's Yummy **Lady Nada** HARRY SMOKES FROM ALBUQUERQUE, NM.

34

35 GETTING DRESSED UP IN A NICE SUIT

36 "IF IT REQUIRES A UNIFORM, IT'S A WORTHLESS ENDEAVOR." -George Carlin

37 "THE PROBLEM IS that the people with the most ridiculous ideas are always the people who are most certain of them." -Bill Maher

38 "Circumstances rule men; men do not rule circumstances." -Herodotus

39 "Life is a four-letter word" -Lenny Bruce

40 "I am the wisest man alive; for I know one thing, and that is that I know nothing." -Socrates

What would you like to see on the Pot 40? Write your ideas on this ballot and mail to:

High Times
Pot 40 - 16th Floor
419 Park Avenue South
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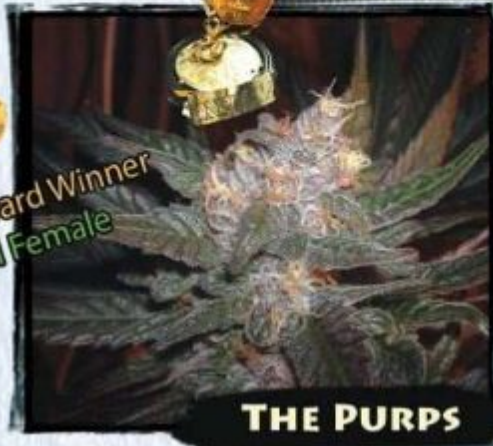
AUTO FLOWERING

LOWRYDER #2 - \$90

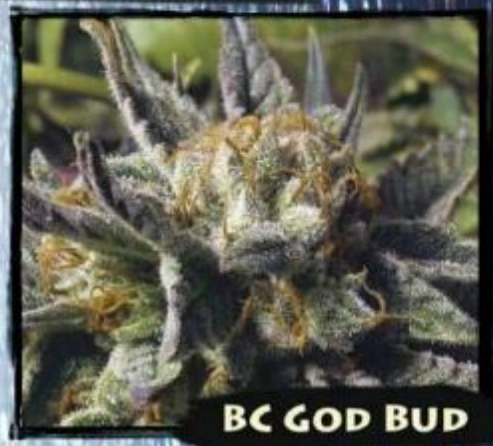
LOWRYDER #2 - \$60



Award Winner
♀ All Female



THE PURPS



BC GOD BUD



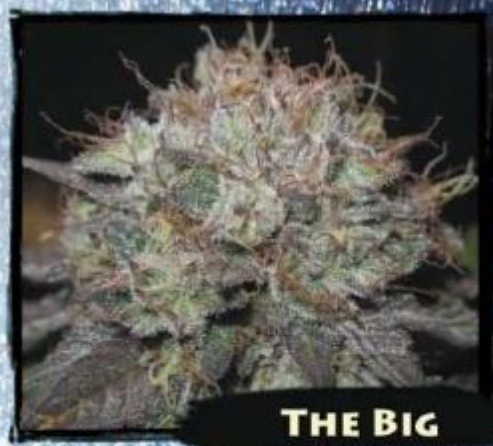
BC MANGO



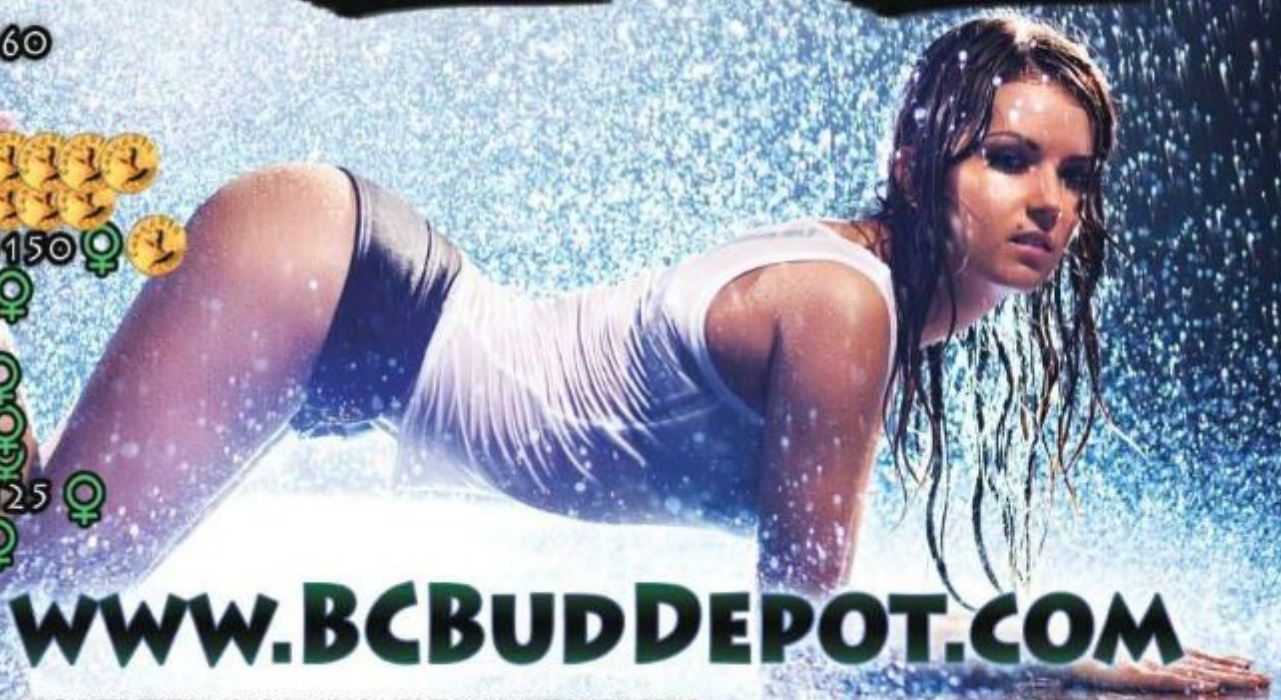
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BC BLUEBERRY



THE BIG



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